

ROBERTSON COLLEGE YEARBOOK

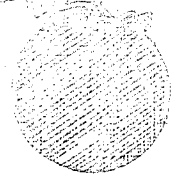
1950

1950



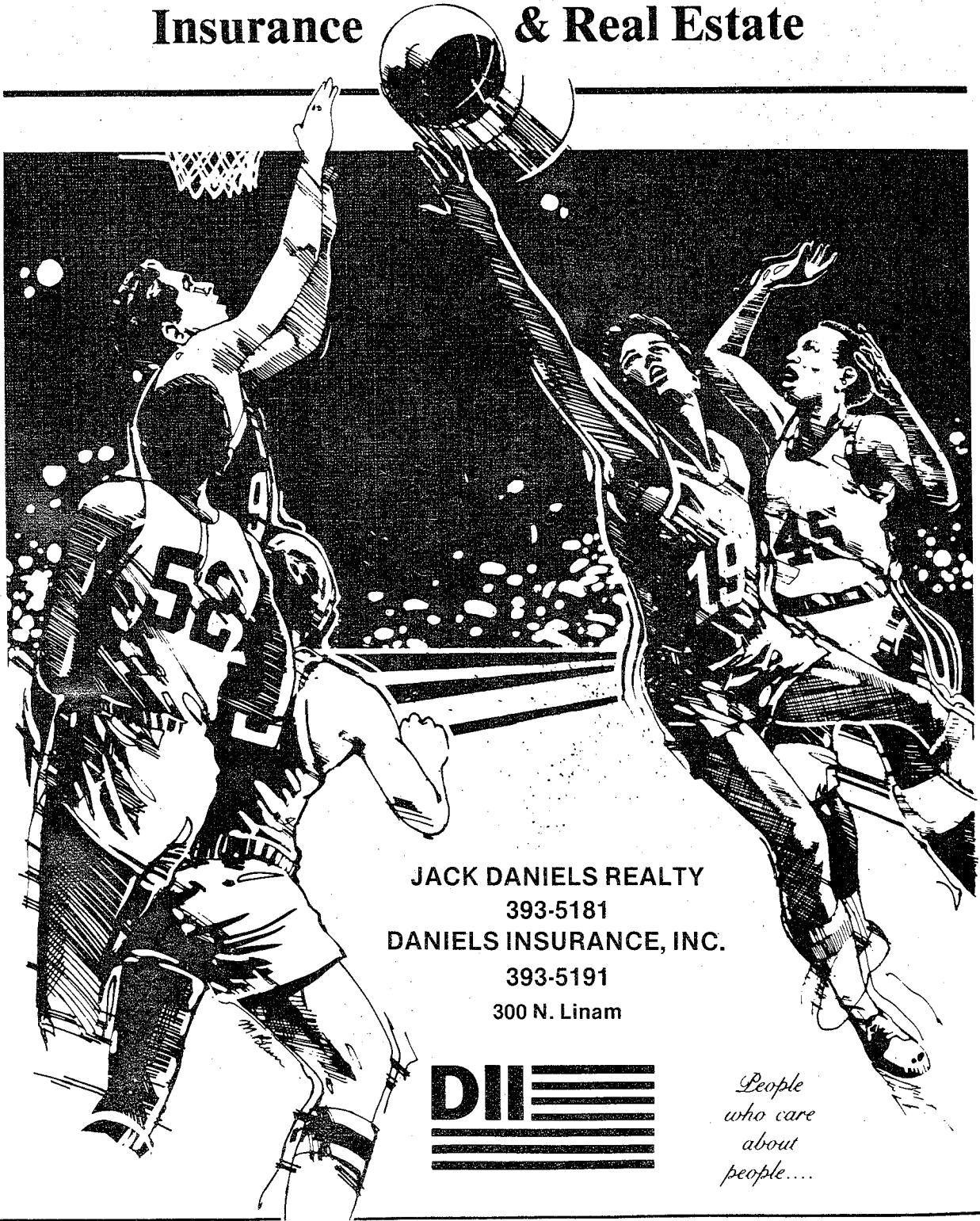
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THE RALPH TAYLOR STORY
WIVES ARE THEIR NOW?
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THE OTHER MAN

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HOBBS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

1950

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 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
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 THE 6TH MAN

THE LEGEND - Past & Present

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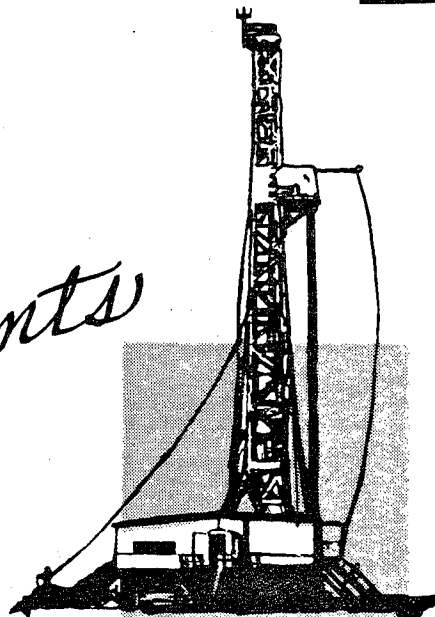
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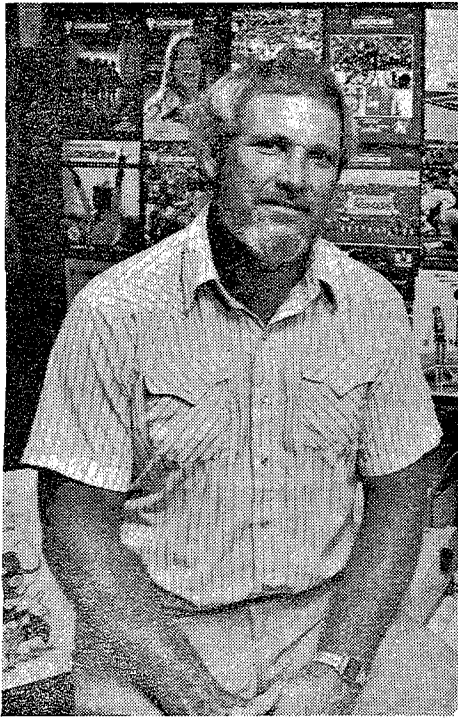


Photo by Bill Hunter—Midland Reporter Telegram



To Soar With Eagles
is to Reach Heights
Known to a Select Few

Forward

The bond among players who have played for Ralph Tasker in the Hobbs Eagles Basketball Program is as unique as is the incredible program itself.

There may not be a continuing fraternity whereby players all stay in contact with each other, but the pride in having been a Hobbs Eagle, and pride in the other teams that have worn the black and gold, is as strong as any fraternal feeling that exists.

It is this pride and a great respect for Ralph Tasker that has inspired the development of this publication.

I would like to thank Manny Marquez and the News Sun, Coach Tasker, school officials, our advertisers, fans, ex-players, Hobbs annual staffs and all who assisted me in the compilation of this material. While I feel that we have gathered the most complete source of information available on Hobbs Basketball, time and source limitations have left a few holes and possibly a couple of errors and/or omissions in this presentation. Therefore, I would apologize in advance to any Eagle who has been omitted or for any information that may not be complete.

Thank you, Ralph Tasker, for the opportunity to be proud of being a Hobbs Eagle.

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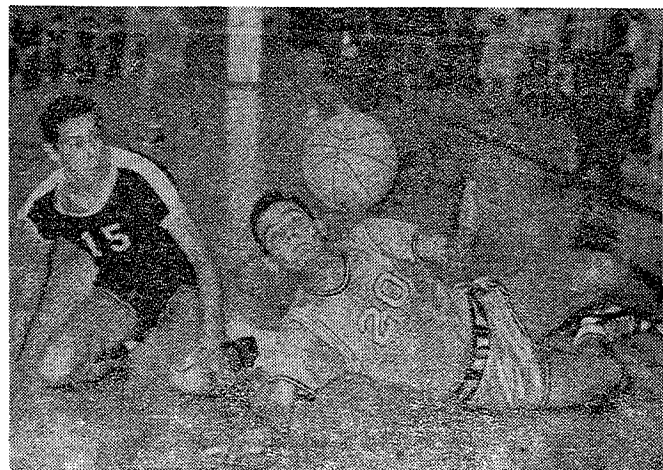
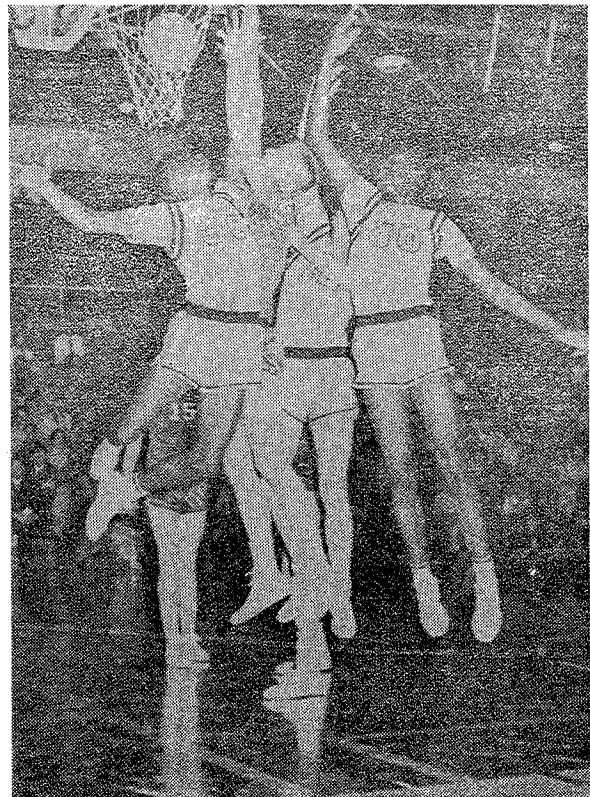
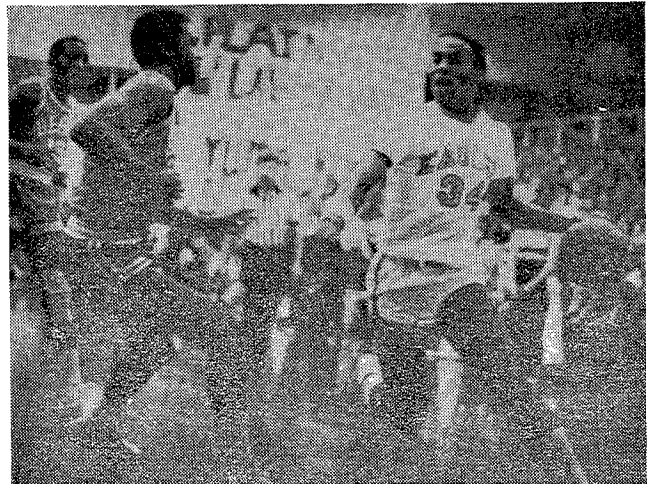
HOBBS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

1950

1983

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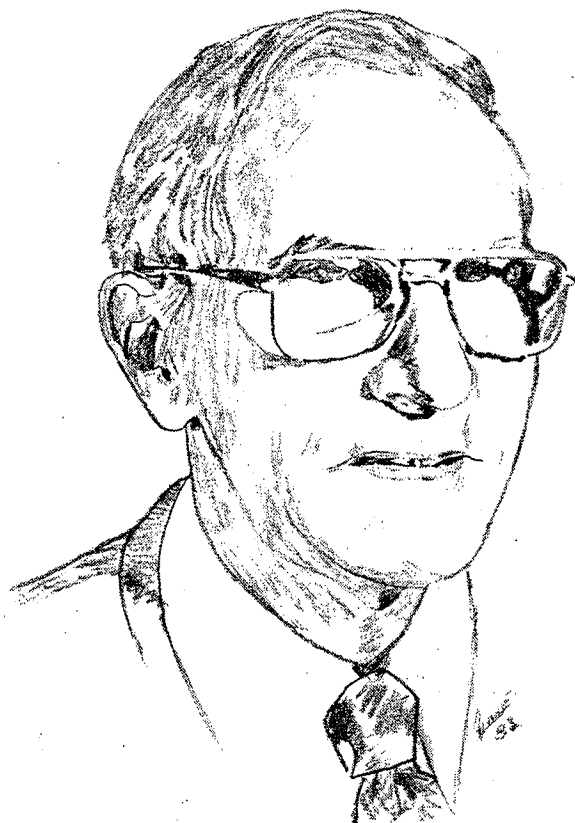


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RALPH TASKER

by Manny Marquez

Ralph Tasker isn't sure what he'd be doing these days had he not become involved in a life-long love affair with basketball. What he does know is that he wouldn't be as happy as he is doing what he does today.

"I told Margaret once that I would still be working in my Dad's grocery store back home," Tasker said. "If not that, I'd be working for Republic Steel in Cleveland. That's what a lot of my friends and cousins who didn't go to college did. I was one of those guys who never planned things. All I wanted to do was play basketball.

"And, it was basketball that got me where I am today."

Where he is today is Hobbs, New Mexico. He's the head basketball coach at the only high school in town.

Ralph Tasker has held that job for 34 years. It's the only job he'll ever want, he claims.

"I've always said I'd rather be the coach of the Hobbs Eagles than the governor of New Mexico," he'll tell you.

He means it, too.

He does his job better than possibly anybody ever has in the history of high school basketball.

His basketball teams at Hobbs High School have won 754 games while losing only 172 since Tasker arrived in Hobbs in 1949. His career coaching figures, which include brief stops in

Sulphur Springs, Ohio, and Lovington, N.M., read 811 wins and 205 defeats.

There are nine state championship trophies at Hobbs High that Tasker's teams have brought home. The one and only state basketball championship a Lovington High team has ever won was while Tasker was coaching there in 1948-49.

He has been selected national high school basketball coach of the year twice -- 1969 and 1980.

He's watched his basketball teams do practically everything possible on a basketball court, from scoring 176 points in a single game to averaging a national record 114.6 points a game over a 28-game schedule to winning 53 games in a row to putting together perfect seasons of 28-0 and 26-0.

The gymnasium where the Hobbs Eagles do their thing is named Ralph Tasker Arena. Two streets in Hobbs are named in his honor.

A couple of years ago when State Senator Harry McAdams of Hobbs, one of Tasker's closest friends, arranged a day for the New Mexico Legislature to honor Tasker for his years of dedication to Hobbs youngsters, the HHS basketball coach received standing ovations in both the Senate and House of Representatives.

For that, all the state championships, the victories and any other success which may have

come his way, Ralph Tasker takes none of the credit.

To hear him talk, the Hobbs Eagles are what they are today because of the dedication of the players . . . the great community support . . . the great facilities which Hobbs provides . . . or the world's best summer basketball program which is sponsored by the City of Hobbs.

"There's no question in my mind I'm the luckiest guy in the world," Tasker said. "They have always treated me special in Hobbs, even when I first came here and we weren't winning. Because of the way the people in this wonderful community have treated me and my family, I have tried to work extra hard for them. I want to show them how much I appreciate them.

"The credit and standing ovations belong to those young men who worked so hard and have worn that Hobbs Eagles uniform with pride."

Those who know Ralph Tasker and the Hobbs Eagles best know where to put the credit for this nationally renowned basketball program. They know him as an excellent teacher, a builder of young men and a one-of-a-kind basketball coach.

"We have had a lot of great teams, great ball players. But Hobbs wouldn't have been anything without Ralph Tasker," former Hobbs and Texas Tech star Kent Williams said.

"He's a fantastic man, a great individual and a real good teacher," added Jimmy Higgins, who played for Tasker in 1953 and is now the head basketball coach in Carlsbad. "He could talk to you and you'd do anything for him."

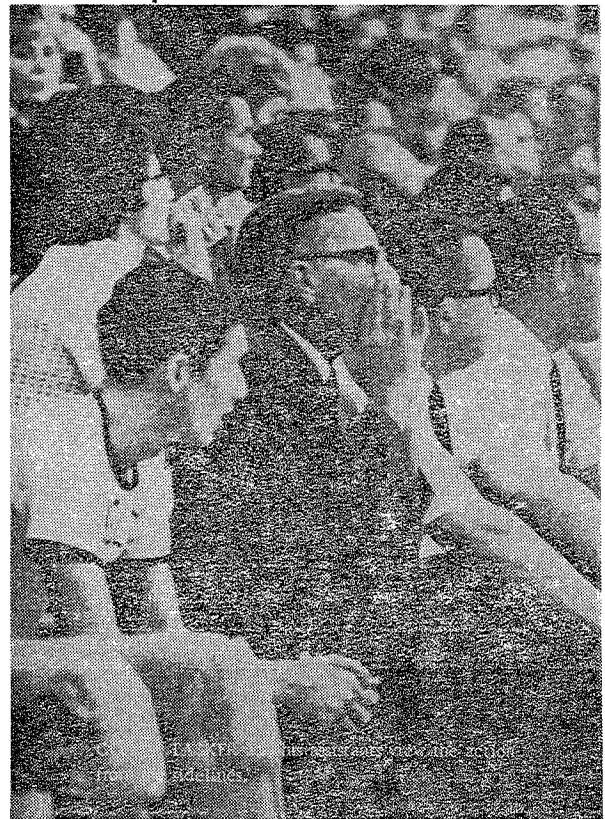
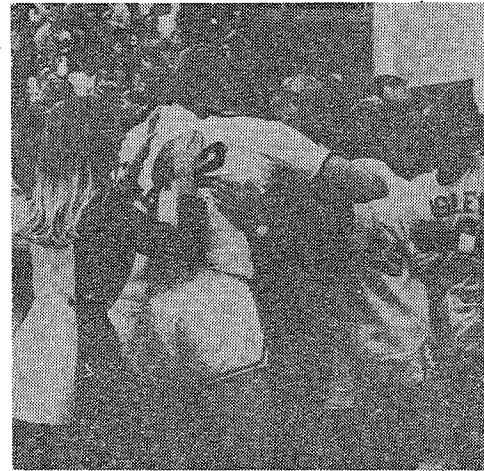
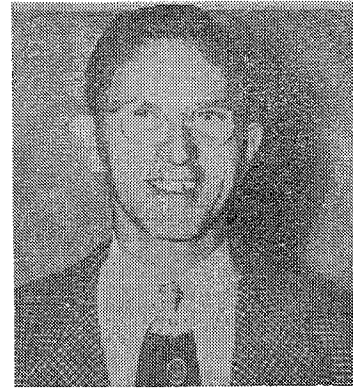
Tasker's son Tim, who played on the 1969 and 1970 state championship teams and is now the head coach of the highly successful girls' basketball program at Lubbock Monterey, hit the nail on the head when he said: "What sticks out to me is how the players love the man and how they'd make any sacrifice necessary. He's just such a positive man. He'll make you feel like you're King of the Mountain, even if you're just the king of the anthill."

Lou Henson, the head basketball coach at the University of Illinois, knows Ralph Tasker well, too. Many a time Henson and Tasker matched basketball wits while Henson was coaching at Las Cruces High School.

"Ralph changes very little," Henson said. "He may make minor changes, but he's got a winning system and he sticks with it. He doesn't try to complicate the game. He's got an outstanding philosophy on basketball."

The wild and wonderful show called Hobbs Eagle basketball didn't come into being overnight.

The full-court press, for example, didn't come into the picture until after a disastrous road trip to Texas in the early 1950s.





"We had the press back then, but we only used it when we got behind, like some teams still use it," Tasker said. "On this trip, we made up a lot of ground on some teams that were ahead of us and we started asking ourselves, 'If it works so well in those situations, why wouldn't it work for a whole game?' So, I had the players put on oil field boots for a while week in practice to get in better shape and we started pressing fulltime. I haven't seen any reason to change."

The press led to fastbreaks and the Hobbs Eagles have lived happily ever after with their unique style of basketball. So have their fans.

It wasn't always so.

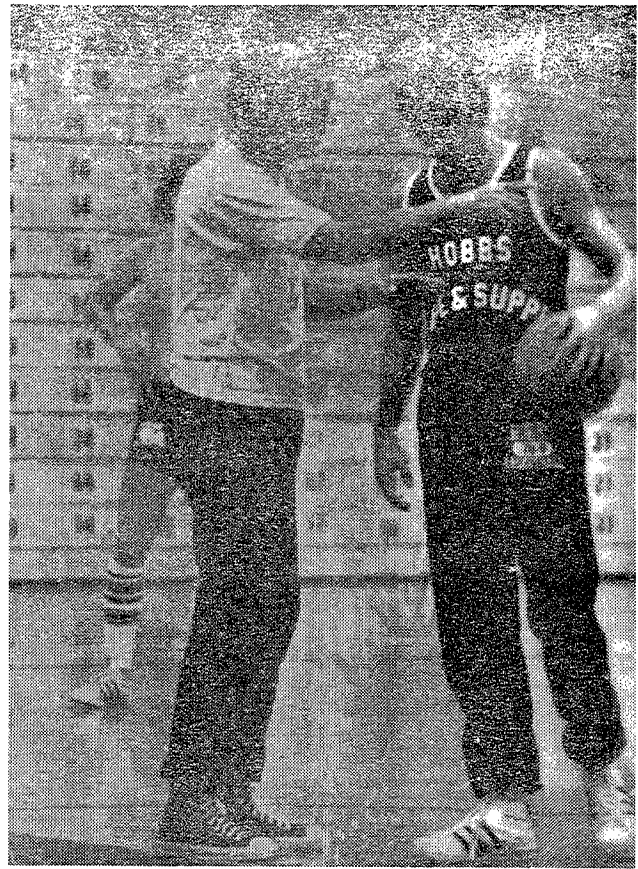
Although Hobbs had had some success in basketball before Tasker's arrival -- there was a 28-win season under Chuck Finley in 1939 and a 6-foot-9 prep All-American named Elmer Morgenthaler terrorized Hobbs opponents in the early 1940s, for example -- it wasn't until Tasker had been at HHS for a year or two that things really started to change.

Tasker's first year on the job produced a 13-17 record. He recalls that his coaching career got off to a somewhat rocky start in Eagleville.

The first three games that Ralph Tasker coached at Hobbs were defeats. In his debut as the Eagles' coach, Hobbs lost 30-28 to Monument, back then one of the hottest basketball brands going in New Mexico.

He remembers what a rude awakening he had.

"I'd been coaching football until Nov. 1, but never got to make a trip with the football team because I was just one of the assistant coaches," he said. "But I used to go watch the football team leave town on one of those nice, big New Mexico transportation buses. When it came time for us to make our first basketball trip, I was really looking forward to it.



"Then the bus showed up to pick us up. It was an old bus that Fisher (HHS football coach Duane Fisher) used to use to take his baseball team to practice in the spring. The door wouldn't even close. I remember I was so proud to be the coach of the Hobbs Eagles that I wore my best suit for the trip. I ripped the pants on a spring sticking out from the seat."

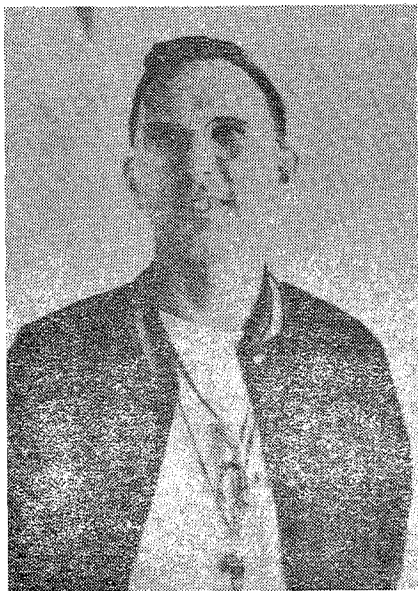
Then followed a 54-27 loss to Eunice in another road trip.

"In our first home game, Portales beat us (35-32). Roy Franse made the winning points for them," Tasker said, referring to the assistant principal at Clovis High School and father of former Clovis star Nelson Franse.

The next year brought a 27-6 record, but the Eagles lost to Clovis in the regional tournament. It wasn't until 1955 that Hobbs made its first trip to the state tournament under Tasker. Hobbs lost to Los Alamos in the semifinals.

Then along came fellows named Kim Nash, Floyd Donham, Ray Clay and Bill Bridges and the Eagles were next to unstoppable, rolling to state championships in 1956, 1957 and 1958.

"When I first got here, we had just won a state championship in Lovington so the Hobbs kids thought I knew a lot about basketball. They listened to what I told them," Tasker said. "Then, when we started winning, they started believing in what we were doing and they kept listening.



"Most important of all, though, was that those guys were willing to pay the price to be successful."

It's been one beautiful season after another since then.

Hobbs High School has won 20 or more games a year every season since 1965, has failed to reach the 20-win mark only once in 27 years, has not had a losing season since 1952 and has qualified for the state tournament for the past 22 years in a row.

In the process, nearly 100 players have gone on to college on scholarships, 44 of Tasker's Eagles have been first-team all-state selections, nine of them have made high school All-American and 11 have been drafted by the pros.

"Now you know why I say I'm the luckiest man in the world. I could have missed all this," Tasker said. "It was just through luck that I got here. What if we hadn't won the state championship in Lovington the year before and what if Hobbs hadn't been looking for a basketball coach the next year? That's why I count my blessings. Where would Ralph Tasker be today without the Hobbs Eagles?"

Actually, as unlikely as it may sound, Hobbs has Japan to thank for Ralph Tasker getting here in the first place. Had it not been for the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Tasker might be coaching in Ohio or West Virginia.

Born and raised in Moundsville, W. Va., Tasker's early romance with basketball had a Hollywood-type script. He was cut from the freshman basketball squad, but worked hard enough in the offseason to make the team as a sophomore.

As a junior and senior, he was all-state and earned a scholarship to Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, W. Va., where he met his wife, Margaret.

At Alderson-Broaddus, he also came in contact with a man who was to have a tremendous influence on Ralph Tasker's life. The man was Rex Pyles, the college's basketball coach.

"I had a coach in high school who made me real happy, but the great man who taught me more about life and basketball was Rex Pyles," Tasker recalled of his former coach, who died in 1982 in West Virginia. "For four years, I played basketball for him and took every single course he taught, from camping and hiking to the psychology of basketball.

"He had a great influence in my life."

It was Pyles' fatherly manner that convinced Tasker he wanted to be a basketball coach. And that's what he became immediately out of college.

His first coaching job was at a now-vanished high school in Sulphur Springs, Ohio. The school hadn't won a single game the year before and it wasn't exactly the ideal situation for a coach just starting in the business.

"I thought I knew everything about basketball then," Tasker said about his first year in coaching. "When my team got beat the first game I ever coached in, I thought the world had ended. I couldn't understand how a team that I was coaching could lose. I didn't speak to anybody, including my wife, for three days that I went around feeling sorry for myself. I thought I knew it all and I found out I didn't know anything."

He must have known a few things, though. Sulphur Springs went on to finish the season 5-11, representing one of the school's most successful seasons in years.

Then came news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Tasker enlisted in the service in the spring of 1942 and was stationed at bases in Louisville, Ky. and San Antonio, Texas, before being assigned to Kirtland Field in Albuquerque.



He was there when the war ended in 1945. And, basketball coaching jobs weren't exactly a dime a dozen then.

He did find out there were openings for basketball coaches in Lovington, N.M., and Mesa, Ariz. He landed the Lovington job.

"I didn't have a car, so I figured I could get to Lovington by bus easier than I could get to Arizona," said Tasker.

He almost changed his mind about staying in this part of the world before stepping off the bus, though.

"Boy, I remember that the wind was blowing sand all over the place and it was cold when I stepped off the bus," he said. "I thought for a while about going back home."

He stayed, though, and in three years he brought Lovington a 52-22 basketball record and the school's one and only state basketball title in 1949.

All was not well in paradise, however.

"They wouldn't let me have my own key to the gym," Tasker said. "And it really wasn't much of a gym. It was an old barrack-like building. When it rained or snowed, it would come in through the cracks in the wall and we had to mop the floor. It had a big wood-burning heater on one side and I remember a kid from Eunice falling on it during a game. I can still see him on that thing. He couldn't get off it because every time he tried to push himself off, he'd burn his hands."

The offer to move to Hobbs came from Finn Watson, then president of the Hobbs School Board.

"The only thing I asked him was, 'Can I have my own key to the gym?' When he said yes, I took the job. I didn't even ask how much it paid," Tasker said. "It wasn't until I got my first check that I found out I was actually making less here than at Lovington."

The rest of the Ralph Tasker story at Hobbs is one that is known far and wide.

Some of the most knowledgeable people in basketball have paid their respects to him and the Hobbs program.

Barry Sollenberger, publisher of the Southwest Sports News Service in Phoenix, Ariz., calls it "the greatest show on earth."

After watching Tasker's 1970 team, which was ranked third in the nation and averaged a national

record 114.6 points per game, former University of New Mexico and Indiana State Coach Bob King said: "I coached some high school basketball in Iowa and Illinois. And, I saw some mighty fine teams, but I'm not sure I've ever seen anybody like that Hobbs club."

Playing against the Hobbs Eagles, a writer for the Midland Reporter-Telegram, once wrote is "...like fighting an endless swarm of locust."

John MacLeod, the one-time coach of the Phoenix Suns, once said: "Ralph Tasker has a fantastic basketball program. I have been there and fantastic is the best word to describe it."

A reputation like that could be an awesome burden on a lesser team. The Eagles carry it well, although they usually bring out the best against every opponent they play.

"What is it like to beat Hobbs? Just watch the reaction from players or fans in Albuquerque when they beat Hobbs," Las Cruces Coach Whitey Coffman said. "When we beat them in the state tournament in 1975, one of our players told me it was the biggest thrill of his life."

Hobbs does get beat, but not very often and very rarely at home. Going into the 1982-83 season, the Eagles had won 76 of their last 81 games and they hadn't lost at Tasker Arena in their last 42 home games.

So what type of goals is Ralph Tasker shooting for these days?

"Right now we're trying to build up our basketball program to where it was in the 1960s," Tasker replied. "Remember how we were undefeated in 1966, won all but our last game of the 1967 season, then won state championships the next three years? That's the kind of program we want to have again one of these days."

Those may sound like long-range plans for a fellow who will be 64 next July.

"That's something I have to tell all the writers in Albuquerque every year. They want to know how many more years I plan to coach," he said. "I tell them I'm going to be the Hobbs Eagles' basketball coach until they fire me. I have no other plans whatsoever."

"I have never had any hobbies, never played golf, never even went fishing. Basketball is my life and I love it. I'm going to coach for as long as they let me."

1949

FIRST TASKER EAGLES

1950



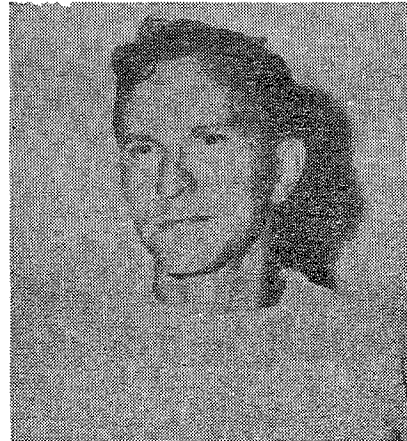
1949-50 Eagles (Top L-R) Garland Profit - Mgr., G. W. Sullivan, Temple Green, Bill Hayes, Don Lanford, Wayne Hill, Coach Tasker (Kneeling L-R) Keith Burcham, Charlie Ellison, John Dunnaway, Charles Nolan, Allan Harmon, Larry White, Kenneth Taylor.

Hobbs welcomed a new varsity basketball coach this year as Ralph Tasker moved from Lovington where he led the Wildcats to the state title last year.

In a district with defending state champion, Lovington, Eunice, Jal, Tatum, Hope, and Monument; the Eagles lost their first three games to Monument, Eunice, and Portales before finally moving into the win column vs Seminole (57-16).

Hobbs completed the season with a 13-17 mark, and defeated Monument in the district tournament to take third place behind champion Eunice and runner-up Lovington. Hope took the consolation title and the sportsmanship trophy.

Hobbs' Charles Nolen joined, among others, Lovington's Ross Black on the all-district team.



Statistics for 1949-1950 Unavailable.

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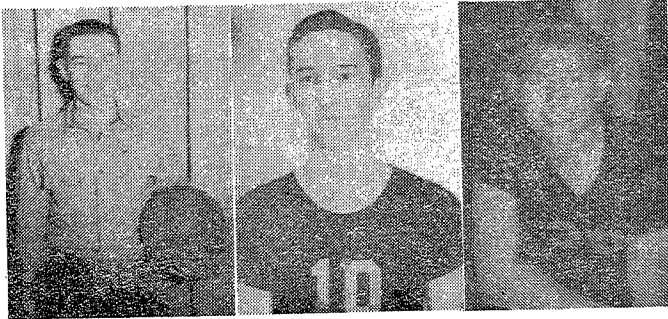
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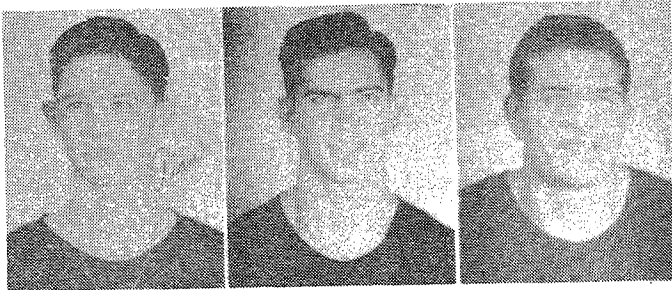
1950-51 Eagles



Jimmy Walker

Charles Nolan

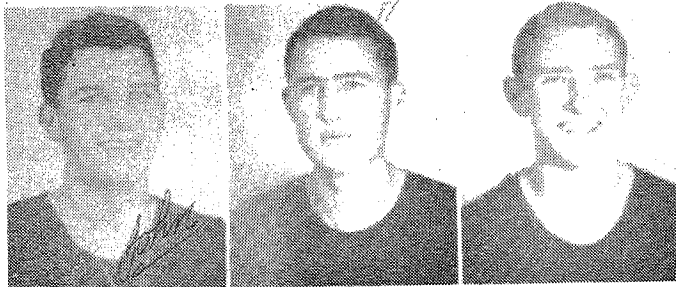
Doyle Seawright



Allan Harmon

Charlie Ellison

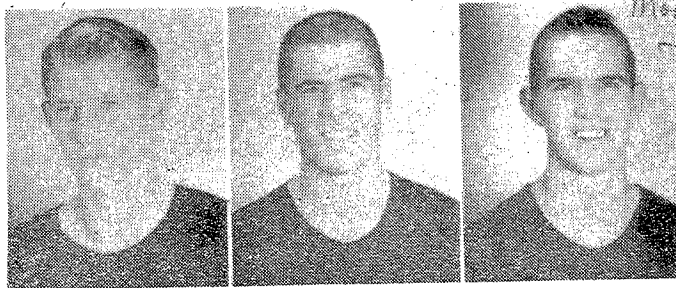
Larry White



John Dunnaway

Garland Profit

Kenny Shelton



Johnny Elam

Art Pruett

Bill Mackey

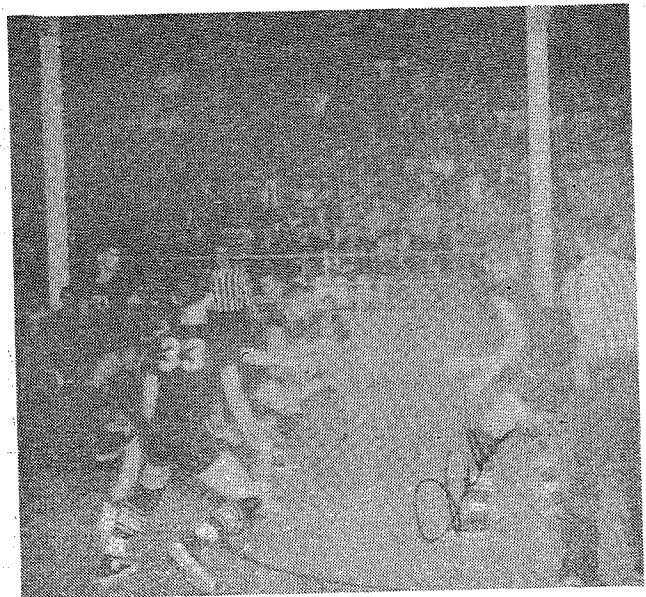
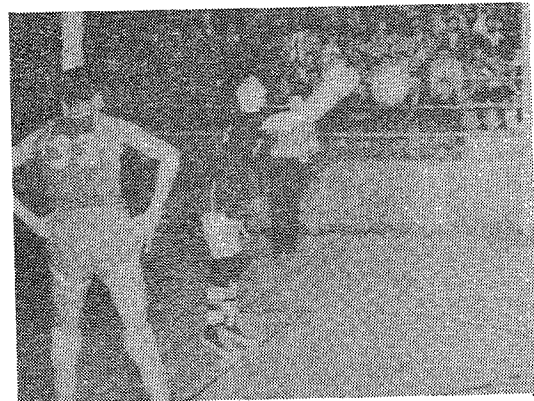
The Hobbs Eagles moved into their second year under young coach Ralph Tasker with 6 players from the 1950 squad returning including capt. Charles Nolen.

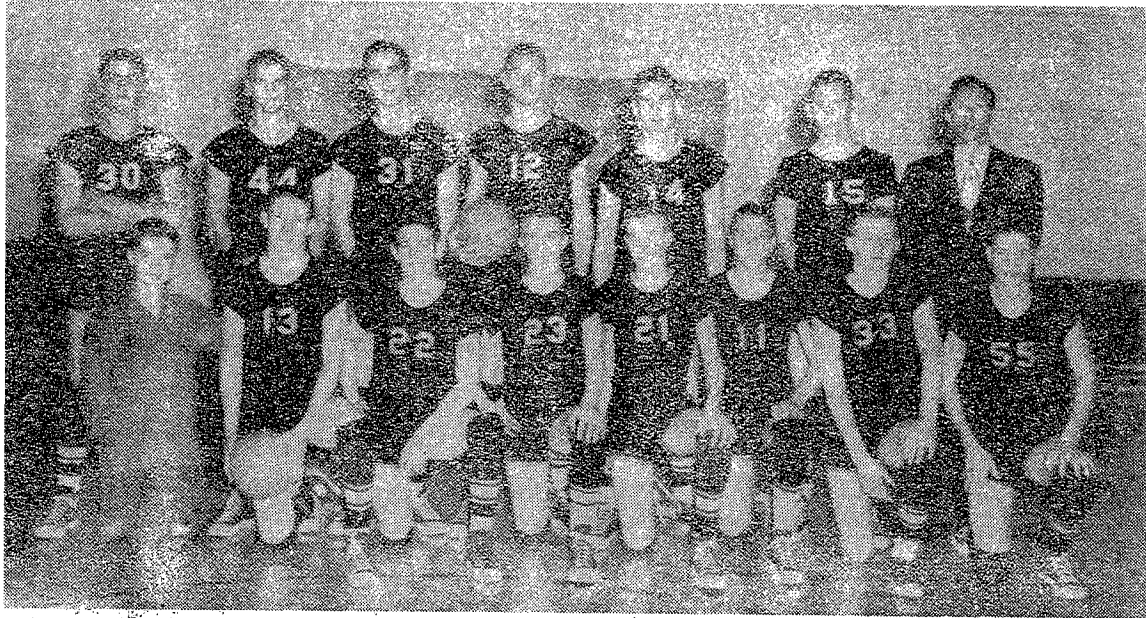
The improved Eagles registered a 27-6 record for the season which was climaxed with an exciting post season finish. Lovington edged Hobbs out in the district tournament, but Hobbs returned the favor in the regional bout by besting the Cats for the 3rd place trophy in that contest.

Charles Nolen was named as coach Tasker's first Eagle all-stater.

Seven members of the 1950-51 Eagles graduated to give Tasker an off season challenge in fielding a competitor for 1951-52.

Statistics for 1950-1951 Unavailable.





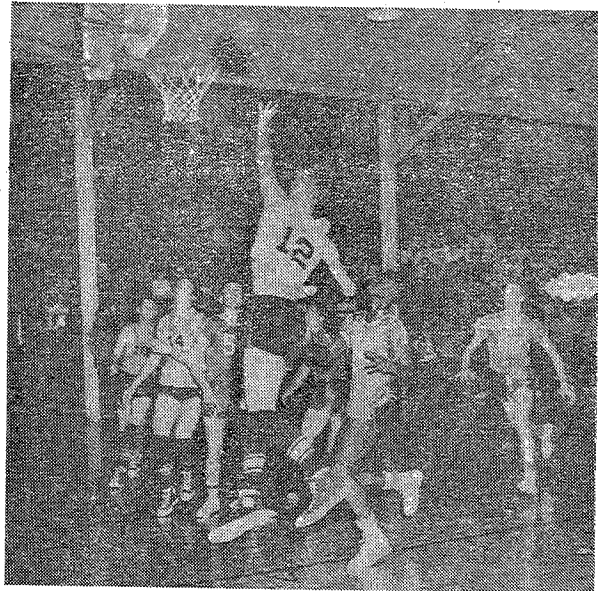
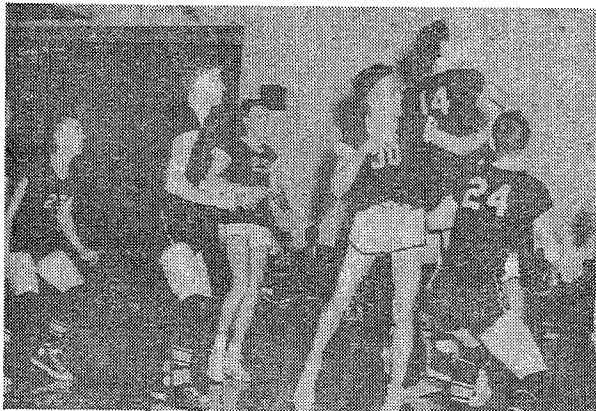
1951-52 Eagles (Top L-R) Art Pruett, Don Miller, Bill Mackey, Johnny Elam, Ron Wilder, Alien Pickerel, Coach Tasker (Bottom) Jimmy Williams - Mgr., Kenneth Shelton, Jack Kennedy, Dub Pierce, Jimmy Higgins, David Childress, Frank Fields, Neal Attaway.

The 1951-52 Eagles had 4 veteran players from the previous season to build around, but welcomed some outstanding newcomers that proved to be the nucleus of the march to the penacle of New Mexico state schoolboy basketball.

The 9-17 record built by the Eagles was to be the last sub .500 season for the Eagles and coach Tasker.

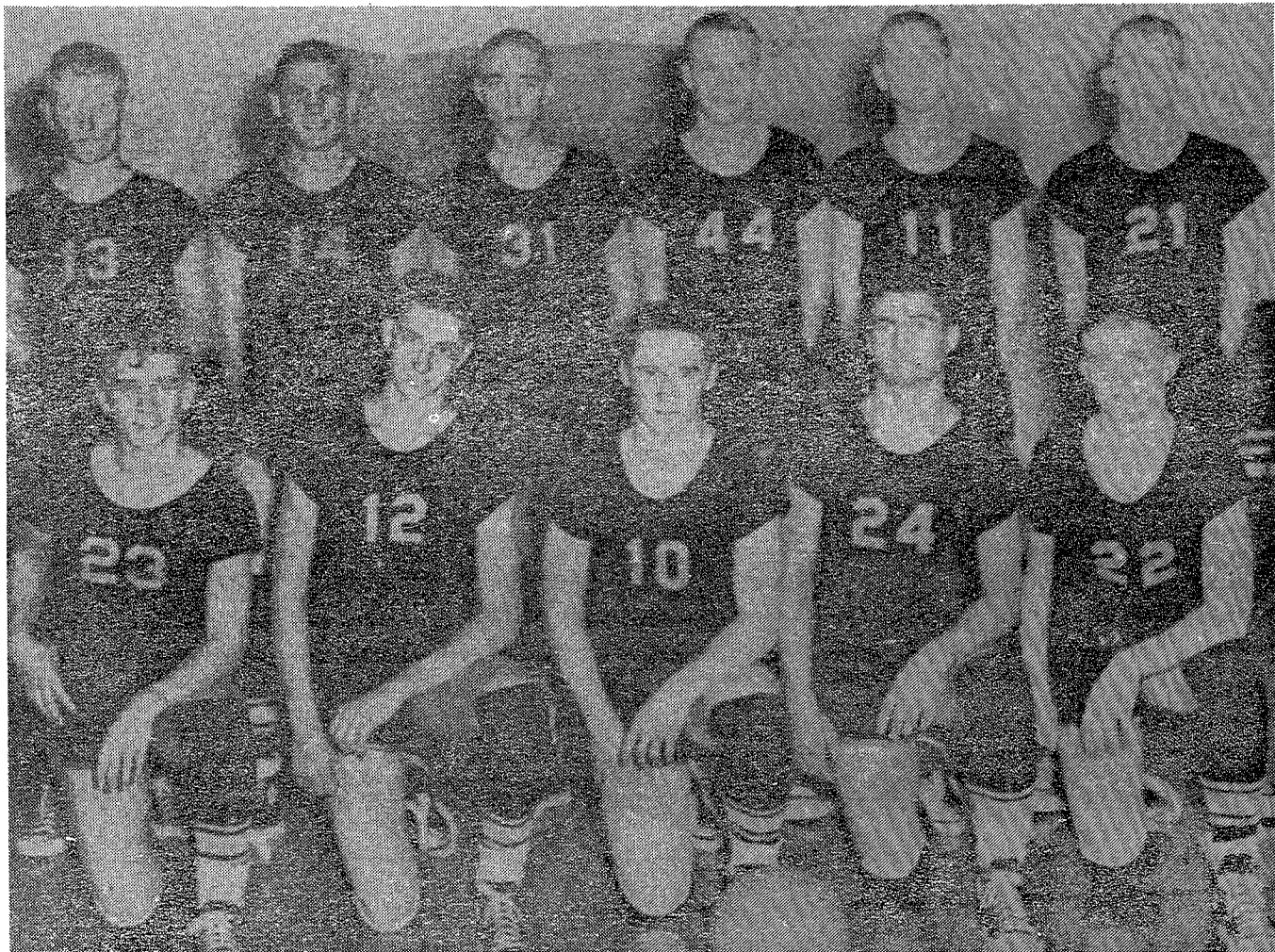
While '52 saw the end of players such as Bill Mackey, Johnnie Elam, Kenny Shelton, and Art Pruett who had shared in the 1951 successes; sophomores such as Ron Wilder and Dub Pierce gained the experience to help the Eagles in their ladder to success.

Statistics for 1951-1952 Unavailable.



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1952-53 Eagles (Top L-R) John Paul Raney, Ron Wilder, Ertis Davis, Ed Bryson, Terry Bottesch, Jimmy Higgins. (Kneeling L-R) M. A. Dunnaway, Micky Corkland, Truman Williamson, Gary Sloan, James "Dub" Pierce.

Opponents, in the 25-game season, scored 389 baskets, 412 free throws, committed 462 fouls and totaled 1,190 points . . . The Eagles won 13 and lost 12 -- but the best thing about the situation now is this: All five regular starters plus three other squadmen will be back next year.

If you haven't done so already, get out to take a look at the new Eagle gymnasium one of these days. It's mighty impressive.

Name	FG	FT	F	TP
Ron Wilder	74	99	96	247
Dub Pierce	63	72	64	198
Ertis Davis	64	52	71	180
Gary Sloan	47	49	61	143
Terry Bottesch.....	47	31	37	125
Jimmy Higgins	24	34	33	82
Edwin Bryson.....	18	27	21	63
Truman Williamson.....	20	21	27	61
Corky Markin	7	8	16	22
C. H. Dunaway.....	9	8	4	26
John Paul Raney.....	14	12	21	40
TOTALS	407	420	472	1,234

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1953

EAGLES ENTER NEW GYM

1954



1953-54 Eagles (Top L-R) Coach Tasker, Terry Bottesch, Ron Wilder, Joel Adkins, Ertis Davis, Jimmy Hunter, Keith Amerson, Eddie Bookout - Mgr. (Kneeling L-R) John Paul Raney, Gary Sloan, Lynn White, James "Dub" Pierce, Glen Brawley, Weldon May, Phil Berglan.

The 1953-54 Hobbs Eagles really started it all as they were the first Hobbs team in a string that extends through the 80's to have better than a .500 record.

The all senior Eagles of 1954 rolled to a 25-4 record, but missed a state berth while still playing a relatively slow paced game like everyone else. (The pressure game became a way of life in January 1956.)

The Eagles also opened the new gym at the new high school as previous teams had played in the small gym now used by the junior high (only 1).

This is the only Hobbs team under Tasker that has lost 100% to graduation. However, "B-squad-er" Don Durham did manage to get a little varsity action to give the '55 Eagles a little experience.

NAME	FG	FT	F	TP
Ertis Davis	114	102	80	330
Dub Pierce	103	90	78	296
Phil Berglan	76	74	84	226
Terry Buttesch	71	34	49	176
Keith Amerson	35	57	66	127
Gary Sloan	32	38	59	102
Ron Wilder	28	42	48	98
Lynn White	18	24	41	60
Bill Elliott	13	13	23	39
Edwin Bryson	9	13	14	31
Glen Brawley	8	9	10	25
John Paul Raney	3	5	14	11
Joel Adkins	2	3	6	7
Jimmy Hunter	2	1	4	5
George	0	0	1	0
Don Durham	0	0	1	0
TOTALS	514	505	578	1533

RALPH TASKER'S CAREER RECORD

Wins	Losses	Year	Wins	Losses	Year	Wins	Losses
1. 1940-41	5	11. 1955-56	30	3	25. 1969-70*	26	1
2. 1946-47	15	12. 1956-57*	27	2	26. 1970-71	25	3
3. 1947-48	14	13. 1957-58*	20	11	27. 1971-72	20	7
4. 1948-49*	7	14. 1958-59*	19	7	28. 1972-73	22	5
5. 1949-50	13	15. 1959-60	24	4	29. 1973-74	21	5
6. 1950-51	27	16. 1960-61	20	8	30. 1974-75	23	4
7. 1951-52	9	17. 1961-62	25	4	31. 1975-76	22	5
8. 1952-53	13	18. 1962-63	27	1	32. 1976-77	23	5
9. 1953-54	25	19. 1963-64	26	2	33. 1977-78	26	3
10. 1954-55	18	20. 1964-65	19	10	34. 1978-79	23	5
		21. 1965-66*	28	0	35. 1979-80*	27	2
		22. 1966-67	25	1	36. 1980-81*	26	0
		23. 1967-68*	27	1	37. 1981-82	23	3
		24. 1968-69*	25	2			



"Dub" Pierce and Gerald Coppedge watch "Their Eagles" at the 1982 Holliday Classic.

by Manny Marquez

HOBBS EAGLES:

Where Are They Now?

It's not true that there are former Hobbs Eagles all over the world. It only seems that way.

However, if you're ever in Sweden, you could see one of the all-time great Eagles playing professional basketball. One of Ralph Tasker's former basketball pupils is in Africa somewhere drilling oil wells these days. One of them is coaching basketball in Canada. And, one former Eagle is playing in the National Basketball Association.

Had you been in China, Brazil or Italy just a while back, you might have run into a few former Hobbs players there, too.

Larry Robinson, a prep All-American on the great 1970 Hobbs team who went on to become the first Black player in the Southwest Conference and one of the best all-around basketballers ever to put on a University of Texas uniform, is

the fellow living and playing basketball in Sweden today.

"I think Larry's found a home," said Tasker. "He really likes it there."

When he's not playing in the Swedish professional league, Robinson works in a bank.

The former Eagle drilling for oil in Africa is Ralph (Easy) Pugh, the younger of the Pugh brothers on that same '70 team.

And who's this coaching basketball in Canada? Why it's Ray Clay, who else?

Clay, the first Black varsity basketball player at Hobbs High School -- "I was playing varsity basketball when Bill Bridges was still on the junior varsity," Clay once said -- is probably best remembered for his ball-handling wizardry.

"He could do things with a basketball that some players only think about doing," Tasker said of Clay, who spent so many

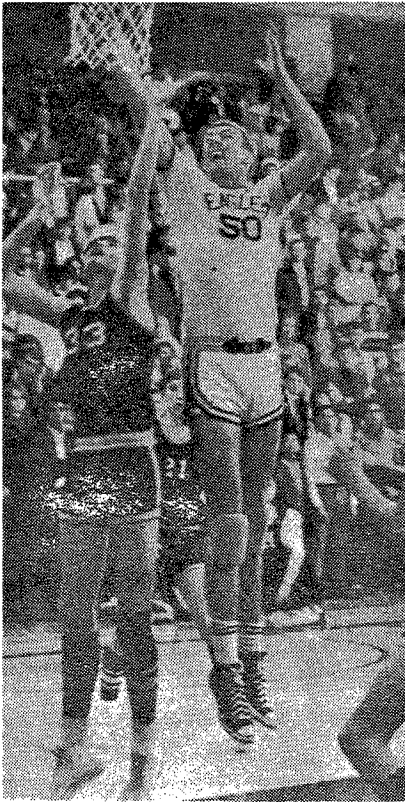
years as a player and later player-coach with the Harlem Clowns. "I heard from him not too long ago. He's coaching basketball at a private school in Canada."

The Hobbs player now in the NBA is Jeffrey Taylor, a second-round pick of the Houston Rockets in the 1982 draft.

Taylor, one of the five talented Taylor brothers who have played or are now playing at Hobbs, isn't wearing the familiar No. 44 on his uniform in his rookie NBA season.

"I'm wearing lucky No. 13," he said. "I'm not wearing No. 44 because that's Elvin Hayes' number."

The guys you might have seen in China, Brazil, Italy or somewhere else in Europe were Kent Williams, Larry Williams, Henry Taylor and Richard Robinson. Kent Williams just returned from China the other



Larry Williams in action vs Eastwood '70



Bill Bridges, Aubrey Linne, and Dean Bonds in action vs Portales and their all-Stater, Barry Stone '56.

day after touring that country with The Athletes in Action. He's headquartered in Washington State. Larry Williams, now on the coaching staff at Kansas State University where he starred as a collegian, spent several years playing pro basketball in Italy, Brazil and a few spots in between before returning to the states. Henry Taylor, now back in Hobbs, and Richard Robinson, today coaching girls' basketball in Truth or Consequences, also gave European pro ball a whirl.

"I didn't even know Richard was back in New Mexico until I saw him at a basketball clinic in Albuquerque this fall," Tasker said. "I remember him telling me he'd never coach again after trying it in Roswell right after he got out of college. But, he seems to be enjoying what he's doing."

A batch of other former Eagles are now or at one time were in the coaching profession.

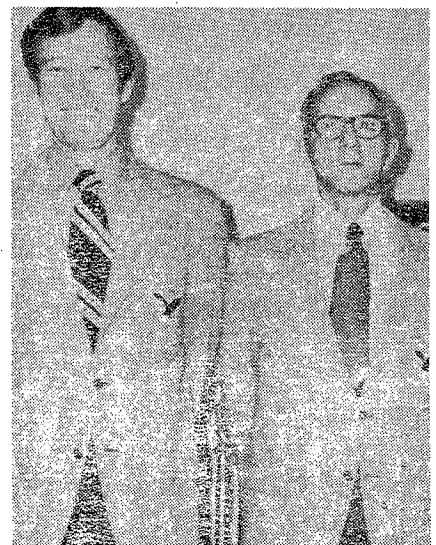
Corky Markin, who played for Tasker in the early 1950s, is coaching in Seattle, Wash., and got to see the Eagles play for the first time in some 20 years in the 1981 state tournament. Dub Pierce is the head basketball coach at Abilene High and Gerald Coppedge, another ex-HHS star, is his assistant coach.

Rob Evans, of course, is the guy who started the Hobbs Connection at Texas Tech, where he is Gerald Myers' top assistant. He's the guy who recruited Kent Williams, Jeff Taylor, Steve Smith, Vince Taylor and Tony Benford for the Red Raiders.

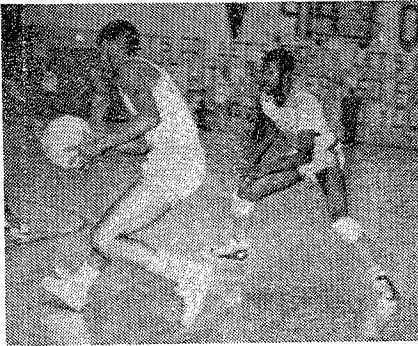
Marvin Schmitt is coaching in South Texas, Tom Carter is coaching in Lubbock and Jimmy Higgins is at Carlsbad.

Former Eagles who have tried coaching and have gone on to something else include Dennis Patton, once the coach at South Plains College and now working in Dallas; Max Proctor, who was an assistant coach in Clovis for

a short spell before going to law school and returning to Hobbs as an attorney; Larry Dunaway, who coached high school and college basketball in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas before going into the insurance business in Texas this year; Rusty Heskett, who coached



Rusty Heskett and Coach Tasker



Rob Evans shown above as a player in 1964, and at right as an assistant coach at Texas Tech in Lubbock.



"Tip"

sophomore basketball at HHS, varsity basketball at Artesia and junior college basketball at New Mexico JC before settling on a school administrative job as an assistant principal at Hobbs High; and Don Abbott, who's taking a year off from coaching while enjoying life in Levelland, Texas, these days.

For some reason, Los Angeles has attracted a large group of former Eagles.

Bill Bridges, regarded by some as the greatest Hobbs Eagle of them all, is a business consultant there. He stayed in L.A. after stellar years with the St. Louis-Atlanta Hawks, L.A. Lakers and Golden State Warriors.

Big Joe Smith, a member of the 1958 Hobbs team that wasn't supposed to win a state championship but did anyway, also lives in Los Angeles.

"Big Joe was probably the most popular Eagle we ever had," Tasker said. "He was well-liked by everyone. "Now he's in the printing business in Los Angeles.

Also living in that California city are Richard Dabney, "Poochie" Dickerson, Claude Heaven and Bobby Daniels, who's in the real estate business.

Claiborn Jackson, another member of the '58 team, also calls California home.

"Claiborn was here this summer and he played some in our summer program," Tasker said.

"He said he just wanted to show me he could still play. He's in great shape."

Roy Lee Ford, captain of the 28-0 1966 team, is a junior high school principal in Houston.

"Roy Lee was one of those guys who put 29-0 on the blackboard the first day of practice and then went out and did it," Tasker said, recalling his first undefeated team.

Also living in Houston is Roy Lee's younger brother Junior Hutchings. A couple of other Hutchings brothers who played for Hobbs -- Charlie and Greg -- are back in Hobbs.

"Charlie has two young ones who are going to be Hobbs Eagles, too," Tasker said.

Marcus Landrum, who played basketball at Yale, is now a successful banker and rancher in Missouri. Eugene Smith is living in Amarillo after playing at West Texas State. Gary Overback, who hooked up with Joe Ussery to give the Eagles a formidable 1-2 punch in 1964, owns a chain of pharmacies in the Austin, Texas, area, and Ussery -- the two-time all-stater and 1964 prep All-American -- is an electrical engineer in North Carolina, but may soon be returning to the Hobbs area. Kim Nash is in the insurance business in Houston.

Sammy Smith, who played at HHS and NMJC, is a career man in the U.S. Navy and Don Durham, an all-stater in 1955, owns an oil field company in Snyder, Texas.

Aubrey Linne, one of the few Hobbs products ever to play in the NFL, now operates BPI Sports Publications in Midland.

"Aubrey was a receiver for the Baltimore Colts and, in the off-season, he and a bunch of football players got together to play basketball -- kind of like the Dallas Cowboys do now," Tasker said.

Several recent Eagles are playing college basketball. Vince Taylor and Tony Benford are playing at Texas Tech, the same school that Timmy Smith and Steve Smith are now attending. Mike Smith is at the University of Tulsa, Steve Welch plays for Baylor and Wayne Brewer, Wallace Williams, Kenny Smith and Hubert Haynes are playing for NMJC.

Then there are all those Eagles who stayed in Hobbs -- Dickey Neal, who owns Norte Vista Pharmacy; Jimmie Denton, with Anderson-Denton Associates consultants; Kenny Shelton, who works for Watson Truck; Clifford Powell, captain of the 1963 team, and Rod Williams both work for oil companies in Hobbs, as does Hollice (Goose) Clay, who held the all-time Hobbs Eagle career scoring record until Richard Robinson broke it in 1973.

Of course, those are just a few of the nearly 300 young men who at one time wore the proud uniform of the Hobbs Eagles. The others are scattered out somewhere between Hobbs and China.



1954-55 Eagles (L-R) Floyd Dunham, Don Durham, Ed Bryson, Kim Nash, Gerald Coppedge

A green troop led by single letterman Ed Bryson surprised no one by losing their first 4 and 6 of first 8, but ended the regular season 15-8 including 1 win over eventual state champion Carlsbad (63-62). All-State Gerald Myers of Borger made the Eagle's all-opponent team.

The Eagles made their 8th trip to the state tournament, their first since 1938 when they captured 3rd

place after playing 3 games in 29 hours. The Tasker men set a single quarter scoring record of 28 points and had 5 players mentioned in the All-Tournament balloting.

In the series finals, Hobbs was down 12 points and sent Los Alamos into an overtime before finally going under. Carlsbad took the title.

Statistics for 1954-1955 Unavailable.



1954-55 Eagles (L-R) Ronald Prince, Stovey Stovall, Winston Pickering, Jerry McPeters, Ray Clay.

1955 • FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM • 1956



1955-56 (Back L-R) Pat Peterson, Marquis Landrum, Bill Bridges, Aubrey Linne, Max Webb, Kim Nash, Jerry McPeters, Stovey Stovall. (Front L-R) Gerald Coppedge, Roy Martin, Don Gormley, Floyd Dunham, Dean Bonds, Ray Clay.

Eagles Win State Basketball Title

Hobbs Defeat Cavemen 89-82 In Tight Game

By ART GATTS
Brookhaven Sports Editor

Kim Nash scored his most spectacular game since the last and record for state tournament score. He led with more minutes to go on today as he led by Bill Bridges 7-17. Carlsbad had been at a four games in the final quarter before that shot.

Hobbs was ahead 23-19 after the quarter. 6-4 at the half and 47-36 at the end of the first half. The lead was held 65-41 at the end of the third quarter. Bridges led the Hobbs team 15 for Carlsbad.

It was Hobbs' first state championship and the steady hundreds of fans were here for the game when Nash had three for fourth night. Tasker's crowd breaks.

For the game, Hobbs was ahead 24 times, behind 11 times, and tied with the visiting Cavemen 11 times.

Nash, who predicted before the game he would score 25 points, had 23 midway to the third period as he scored the 44 record, set last night.

Records of Class I crowd started about 8:00.

The state championship captured at Albuquerque climaxed a brilliant year for Coach Ralph Tasker and his team, a team that was the first in New Mexico's history to win the Roswell invitation Tournament, the District 4-A Tournament and the State Tournament in one season.

The Eagles ended up with a 30-3 record, were undefeated against district teams and had a 25-game winning streak at the end. They averaged better than 80 points a game, scoring 2,654 points, giving opponents 1,769.

Other offensive achievements: Made 49 field goals in one game, scored 124 points in one game, hit 32 free throws in one game, hit 55.1 per cent of their shots from the field in one game (55 in another). On the defensive side, they allowed only eight field goals to three teams, five to one, allowed 20 points to one team, 23 to another.

NAME	FG-FGMFG PCT.	FT-FTM FT PCT.	F	TP
Nash	221-255 .443	148-48 .755	85	590
Nolan	185-305 .377	90-27 .763	89	460
Clay	158-189 .455	78-28 .736	46	394
Bridges	131-191 .407	109-59 .648	99	371
Linne	74-97 .433	52-44 .546	58	200
Coppedge	73-119 .380	51-47 .520	81	197
McPeters	57-96 .372	38-26 .594	39	152
Stovall	45-67 .398	19-19 .500	45	109
Bonds	26-33 .441	22-28 .440	29	74
Landrum	21-30 .412	13-5 .722	22	55
TOTALS*	1010-1427 .414	634-348 .636	625	2654

*Totals are for entire Hobbs team for all games.
 FG—Field goals; FGM—Field goals missed; FG Pct.—Field goal percentage; FT—Free throws; FTM—Free throws missed; FT Pct.—Free throw percentage; F—Fouls; TP—Total points.

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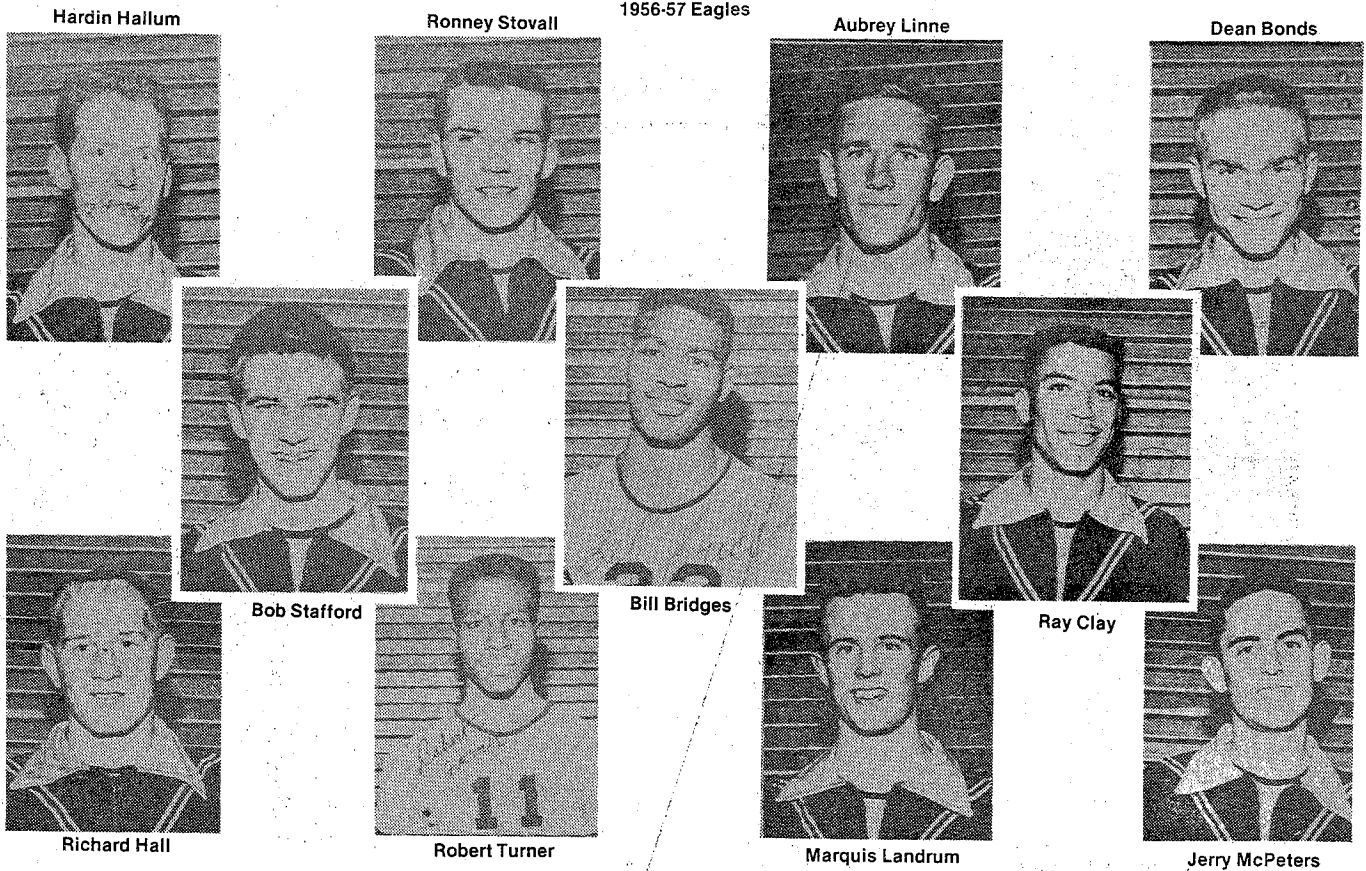
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1956

TWO IN A ROW

1957




The '57 Eagles again dropped both games on their pre-Christmas road trip, but then settled down to mow down all other opponents in route to their second consecutive state title as they bested Carlsbad for the second straight year in the final game.

Bill Bridges controlled the boards as well as the gymnasium as he set rebounding records that should stand for years (23.3/game -- 1054 for the season.) Bill was named All-American and went on to become one of the most famous pro players to come out of Hobbs.

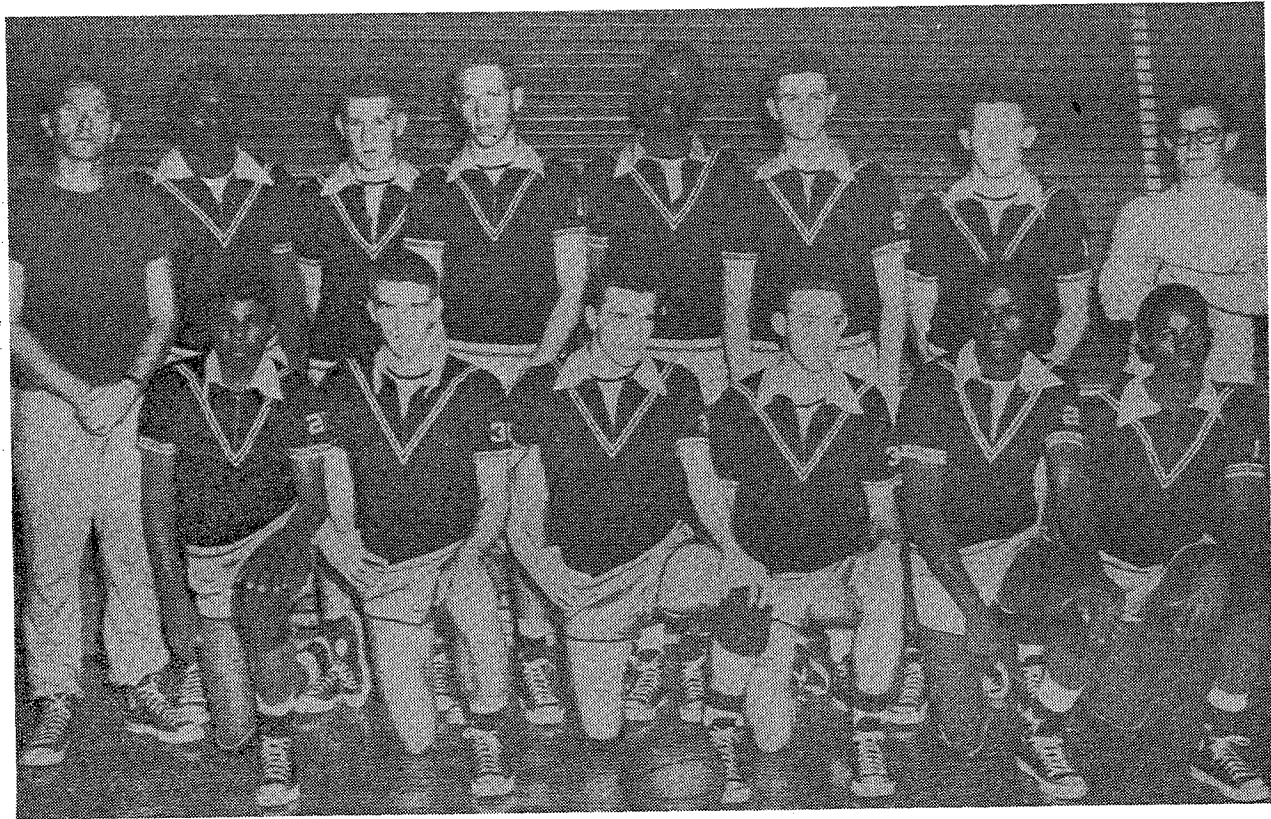
The Golden Eagles 27-2 (.931) record is the best ever for Hobbs teams, beating last year's 30-3 (.909) mark. All starters and all but 3 varsity Eagles graduate to give the successful "B" Eagles a lot of spots in their efforts to make 3 in a row.

NAME	FG-FGA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	R	F	TP
Bill Bridges	229-433	.529	121-187	.647	78	579	
Ray Clay	179-420	.426	59-87	.702	47	417	
Aubrey Linne	105-255	.412	55-110	.500	55	265	
Marquis Landrum	94-231	.407	54-73	.740	62	242	
Hardin Hallum	49-147	.333	48-66	.727	74	146	
Dean Bonds	43-124	.341	49-88	.557	45	135	
Ronney Stovall	43-100	.430	34-59	.576	53	120	
Jerry McPeters	37-135	.274	28-42	.667	39	102	
Richard Hall	16-52	.308	7-15	.467	28	39	
Bob Stafford	13-45	.289	7-21	.333	16	33	
Robert Turner	0-3	0	3-5	.600	11	3	
Others	0-1	0	0-1	0	0	0	
TOTALS	808-1946	.415	465-754	.617	509	2081	



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1957-58 Eagles (Top L-R) Coach Tasker, Joe Smith, Richard Hall, Jimmy Drake, Joe Johnson, Mike Propes, Jerry Hann, Manager Tony Pearson. (Bottom) Goose Clay, Bob Stafford, Ronnie Stovall, John Webb, Claborn Jackson, John Heflin.

The T-Men, who won their third straight basketball title in Albuquerque, ended the 1957-58 season with a 20-11 record, probably the poorest ever to win a state title. Tasker's teams did something no other New Mexico team has ever been able to do -- win three in a row. Tasker, himself, is the only state coach to have four titles (he won one at Lovington before coming to Hobbs).

The Eagles defeated Las Cruces 80-49, St. Mike's of Santa Fe 57-54, and Santa Fe 76-75 in the three state tournament games.

Tasker-coached teams now have a 57-4 record at home since T-Hall was built for the 1953 season.

The state title victory was the sixth in a row for this district, the ninth of the last 10.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	F	TP
Richard Hall	195-435	.425	67-110	.609	94	457
Clayborn Jackson	118-295	.400	55-119	.462	75	291
(Big) Joe Smith	95-195	.503	79-169	.445	101	275
Ronney Stovall	81-219	.369	68-104	.645	87	230
John Heflin	83-187	.444	63-119	.529	126	226
Holllice Clay	103-277	.365	19-42	.452	58	225
Bob Stafford	27-86	.314	27-57	.474	38	81
Jim Drake	29-76	.382	9-31	.290	40	67
Mike Propes	17-49	.347	18-27	.667	36	52
Joe Lloyd Johnson	14-45	.311	18-38	.474	41	46
Jerry Hann	21-69	.304	25-40	.625	49	67
Richard Webb	1-9	.111	0-0	0	5	2
John Webb	9-16	.360	13-21	.619	11	31
TOTALS	796-1956	.407	461-877	.525	760	2053

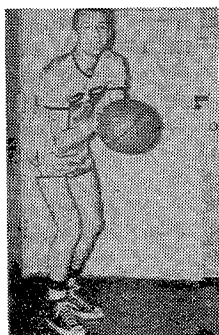
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1958-59 Eagles



Don Abbott



John Webb



Charles Becknall



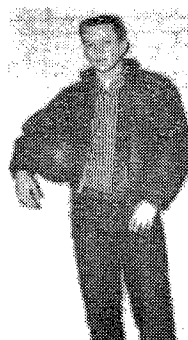
Bill Pimberton



Ronnie Ewing



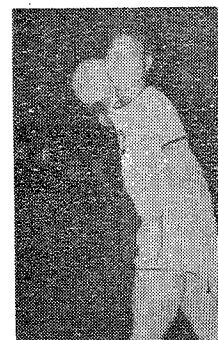
Hollice "Goose" Clay



Charlie Thompson - Mgr



Connie Jackson



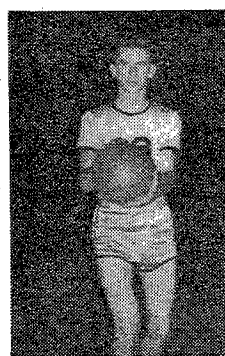
M. T. Finney



Punch McPheron



Arthur Brantley



Jack Speck



James Bridges

The Hobbs Eagles missed their chance to increase their record 3 straight state championships this year by being by-passed in the state tournament lineup as Las Cruces broke the tight eastern grip on the title. Eastern teams had claimed the last 10 state crowns, but 4-A representatives Carlsbad bested Roswell in the battle for third place.

Hobbs placed 4 on the all-district team and posted a good 19-7 (.731) record which is better than the 1957-58 team that took the title with a 20-11 (.645) slate.

The '59 Eagles had only 1 returning letterman, but Goose Clay and the balance of the green Eagles built a strong foundation for the 1960 campaign.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	F	TP
Hollice (Goose) Clay	183-436	.419	123-190	.647	53	489
Don Abbott	86-232	.371	64-89	.719	76	236
John Webb	89-231	.385	56-93	.602	71	234
ARthur Brantley	73-176	.415	64-118	.542	68	210
M. T. Finney	54-140	.386	34-87	.391	63	142
James Bridges	41-113	.363	45-72	.625	87	127
Jack Speck	21-61	.344	11-19	.579	16	53
Connie Jackson	15-38	.395	16-24	.667	32	46
Charles Becknall	10-33	.303	11-21	.524	48	31
Punch McPheron	7-33	.212	15-32	.469	38	29
Ronnie Ewing	8-32	.250	10-19	.526	24	26
Bill Pimberton	6-16	.375	2-3	.667	15	14
Others	0-2	.000	1-3	.333	2	1
TOTALS	593-1543	.384	452-770	.587	544	1638

Hobbs, New Mexico.



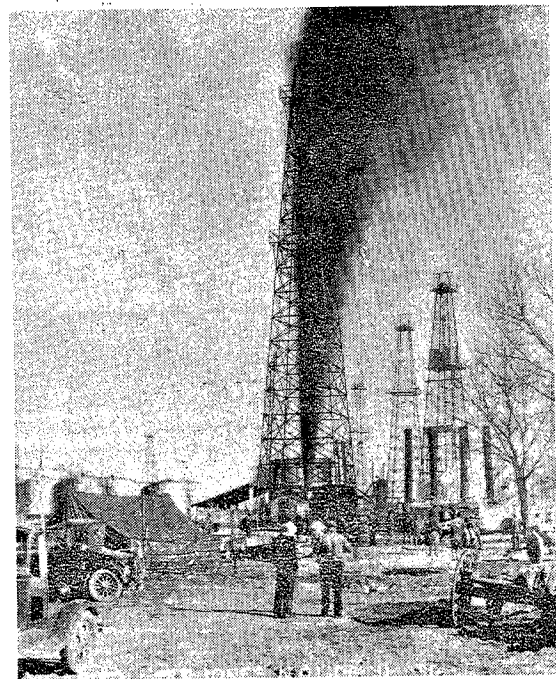
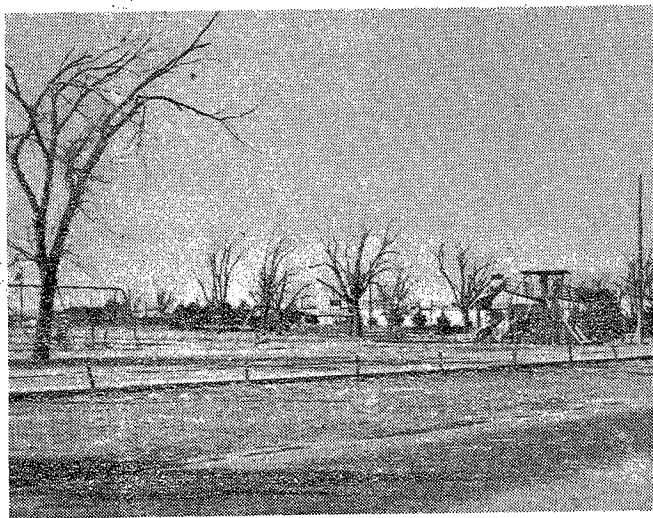
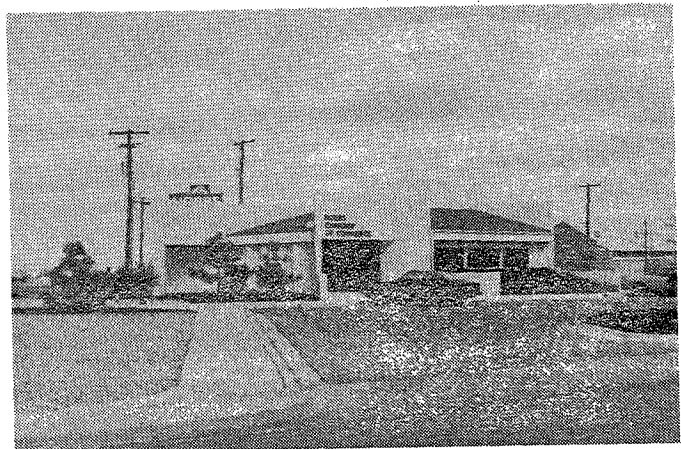
"Pioneer Spirit" is a term often used in conjunction with Hobbs, New Mexico.

The early settlers in Southeastern New Mexico were pioneers of the purest sense, and this heritage and roots have not been diluted by the influx of newcomers from across the world.

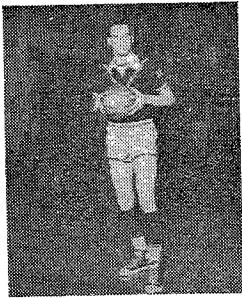
Hobbs may be a leading basketball hot spot in this part of the country, but it is definitely more than that.

Civic and cultural development in a frontier environment are not always easy, but the people have been and are the key to the development of Hobbs. Admittedly, there is no average Hobbs resident, as the real key to the community is individuality, but with a real interest and concern for others and the community.

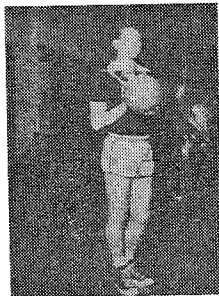
The Hobbs Eagles are a mixture of Ralph Tasker's magic, the boys' dedication and hard work and the support and encouragement of the community -- Hobbs' 35,000 residents are proud of the Eagles and each other.



1959-60 Eagles



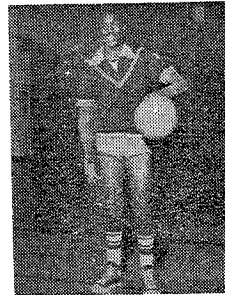
Gary Tydings



Dee Young



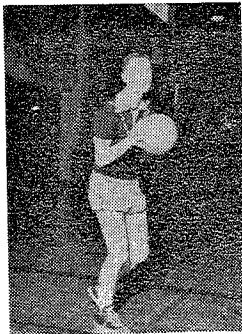
Larry Dunaway



James Bridges



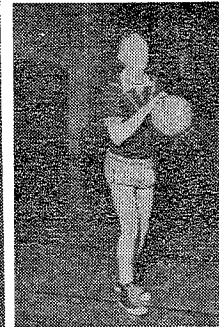
Charlie Becknell



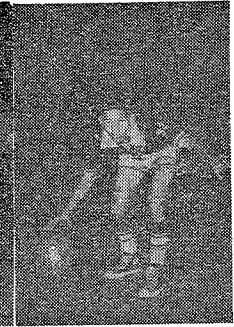
Connie Jackson



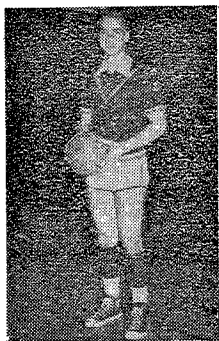
Jim Armstrong - Mgr.



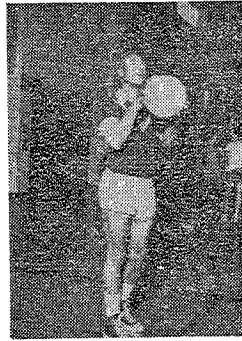
Bob Marshall



Jim Rivera



Charlie Pierce



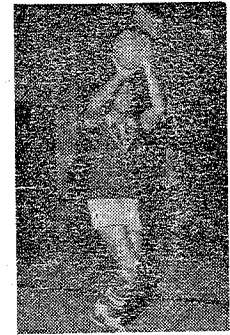
Marvin Evans



M. T. Finney



Hollice Clay



Donnell Brooks

The Eastern part of the state brought home a basketball crown this year, but it ended up a little South of Hobbs, as the Eunice Cardinals claimed the B title, while the Warbirds came up with the number 3 slot in Class A by defeating Lovington.

Goose Clay became the highest scoring Eagle in history with 1221 points to pass Kim Nash (989), Bill Bridges (959), and another Clay, Ray, who had 920. All three of the other leaders played on the same team in 1955-56.

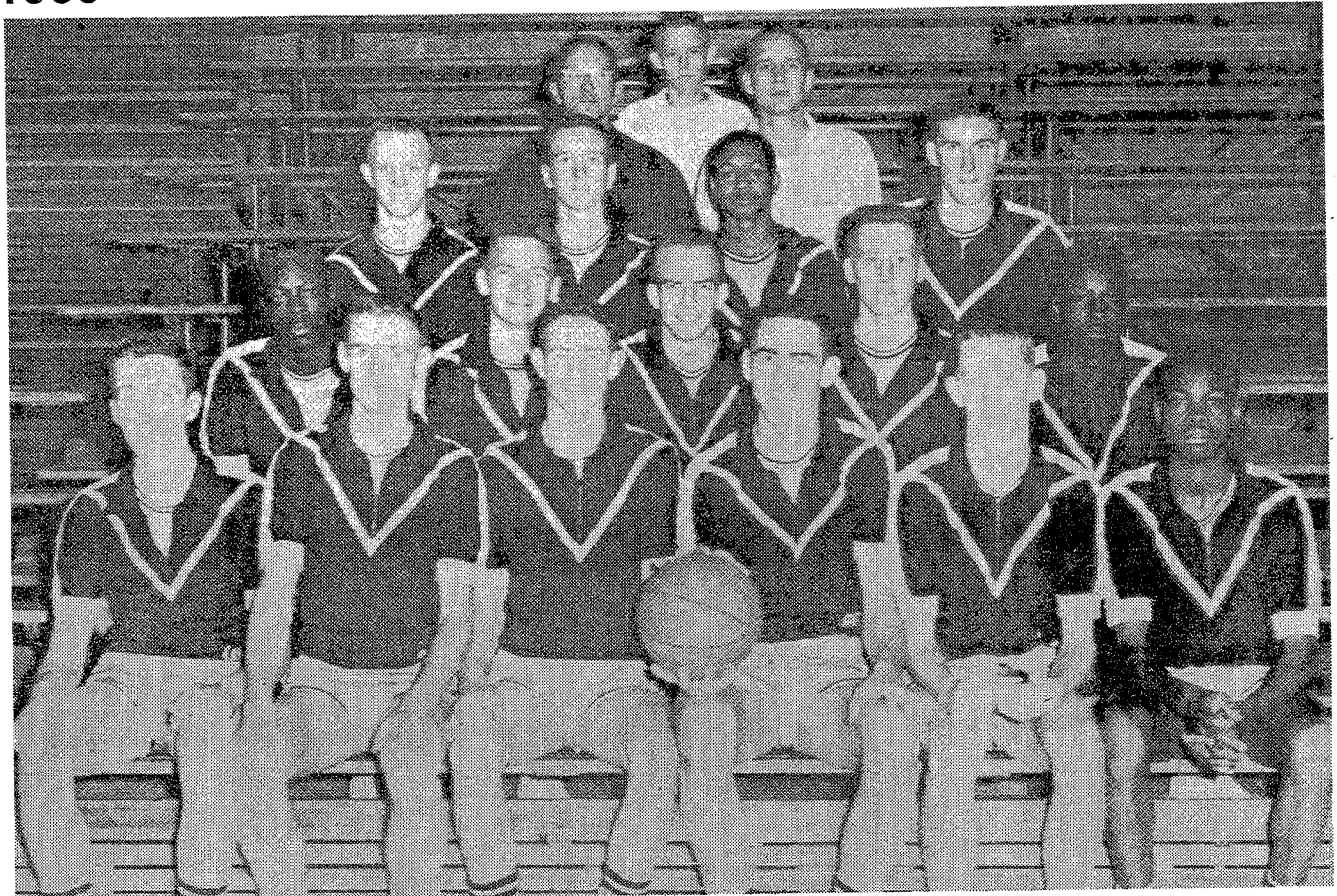
The B Eaglets won their 3rd straight district title, and the junior high teams took 30 of the first 4 spots in the 8th and 9th grade tournaments including first in both.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	F	TP
Hollice Clay	187-423	.442	133-190	.700	71	507
James Bridges	75-172	.436	45-78	.571	77	195
Larry Dunaway	70-171	.409	50-76	.658	73	190
Charles Becknell	69-167	.413	50-83	.602	72	188
Bob Marshall	60-137	.437	48-84	.571	63	168
M. T. Finney	54-170	.318	40-76	.526	60	148
Charlie Pierce	49-153	.320	15-29	.517	47	116
Jim Rivera	28-75	.373	23-38	.605	42	79
Connie Jackson	29-96	.302	20-34	.588	17	78
Gary Tydings	12-37	.324	13-27	.481	36	37
Donnell Brooks	4-10	.400	5-9	.556	15	13
Marvin Evans	9-39	.231	15-21	.714	16	33
Dee Young	1-1	1.000	2-3	.667	2	4
Jack Speck	1-4	.250	1-3	.333	2	2
Bill Noseff	2-6	.333	1-3	.333	1	3
TOTALS	651-1661	.392	460-751	.612	597	1762

1960

20 WINS BUT NO STATE TRIP

1961



1960-61 Eagles (Front Row L-R) Bill McNeil, Robert Patterson, Billy Hoyl, Stanley Lynch, Leroy Drake, and Joe Allen. (Second Row) Richard Dabney, Ted Peck, Charles Vandiver, Hershell Hanks, and Robert Gamble. (Third Row) Pat Robinson, Ricky Walters, Terry Williams, and Dick Lichtenberg. (Fourth Row) Coach Ralph Tasker, and Larry Morris, manager, and Assistant Coach Don Farris. (Not Pictured: Jerry Noseff)

The Eagles had a team average of 61.8 for the season against 50.5 for their 28 opponents. Coach Ralph Tasker's fives, contrary to all pre-season predictions, outdistanced their opponents in all fields except one -- personal fouls.

The Eagles as a team hit 645 of 1303 from the floor for a .495 percentage, against .385 for their opponents. From the free throw circle they netted 438 of 707 for .620 against .603 for their foes.

The Eagles outrebounded their opponents 1076-1000 for the season, and outscored them, 1729 to 1416. The penalty box hit Hobbs' enemies 520-508, however.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	F	TP
Billy Hoyl.....	115-389	.296	76-114	.666	66	306
Charles Vandiver.....	104-233	.448	71-106	.726	59	285
Richard Dabney.....	71-248	.367	56-109	.514	60	238
Terry Williams.....	78-182	.429	52-88	.591	65	208
Stanley Lynch.....	78-183	.426	36-56	.643	57	192
Robert Gamble.....	75-204	.367	36-59	.610	57	186
Pat Robinson.....	23-61	.377	34-47	.723	57	80
Ted Peck.....	21-49	.429	29-33	.878	24	71
Ricky Walters.....	33-105	.314	20-30	.687	21	86
Robert Patterson.....	16-56	.286	12-28	.429	22	44
Jerry Noseff.....	3-8	.375	6-7	.857	11	12
Joe Allen.....	3-7	.435	1-6	.166	6	7
LeRoy Drake.....	3-17	.176	0-9	0	3	6
Bill McNeil.....	1-4	.250	1-4	.250	3	3
Others.....	1-3	.338	3-5	.600	5	5
TOTALS	645-1303	.495	439-707	.620	508	1729

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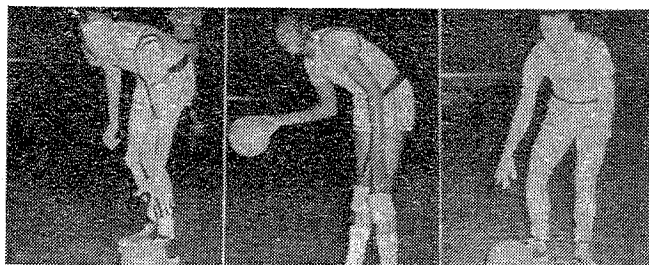
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1961 • EAGLES DROP 1ST ROUND AT STATE • 1962

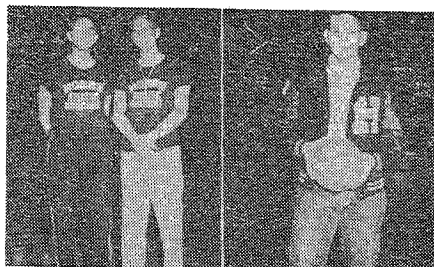
1961-62 EAGLES



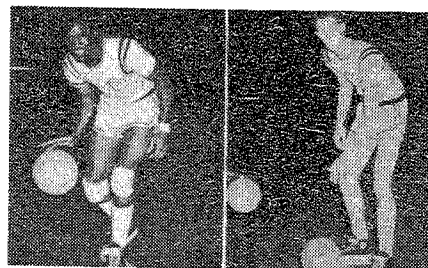
Pat Robinson Rickey Walters Dickey Neal



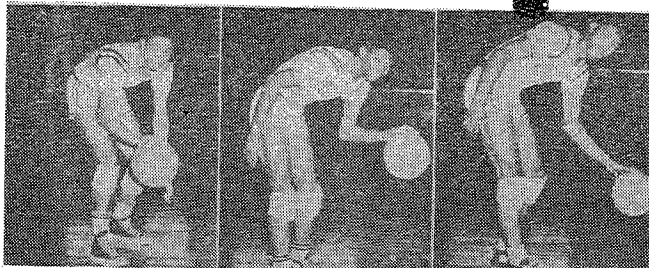
Barney Barnhill Richard Dabney Bob Doshier



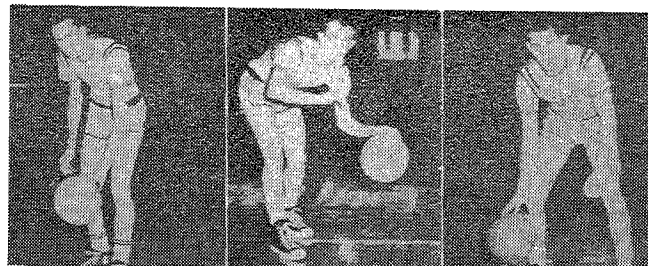
Ralph Tasker & Don Farris Eddie Brown, Mgr.



Robert Gamble Mike McBee



Tony Williams Clifford Powell Zeak Williams



John Wrinkle Dickie Morgan Don Willingham

The 1962 Eagles rode the #1 ranking for all year, and only lost 2 games in New Mexico, including a first round loss to Baird-Cobre in the opening round of a state tournament that eliminated all Southeastern schools in a disputed hurry.

Four Eagles made All-District with Terry Williams on the first 5; Barney Barnhill and Richard Dabney on the next unit; and Zeak Williams was in the top 15 players for the district.

The 1962 Eagles scored 1801 points (.620) to opponents 1379 (47.5) as they compiled a 25-4 record.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	F	TP
Richard Dabney	110-200	.550	64-101	.634	63	284
Barney Barnhill	96-185	.519	55-95	.579	63	247
Terry Williams	76-187	.406	65-102	.637	70	217
Zeak Williams	81-193	.420	49-85	.576	74	211
Robert Gamble	79-200	.395	28-54	.519	54	186
Dickey Neal	61-135	.452	48-77	.623	59	170
Clifford Powell	50-134	.373	38-60	.633	36	138
Rickey Walters	50-115	.435	19-31	.613	47	119
Mike McBee	37-90	.411	27-39	.692	45	101
Dickie Morgan	18-42	.429	22-32	.688	35	58
Pat Robinson	10-32	.313	11-19	.579	47	31
Bob Doshier	6-22	.273	9-13	.692	8	21
Don Willingham	7-14	.500	2-7	.286	8	16
John Wrinkle	1-4	.250	0-0	0	2	2
TOTALS	682-1553	.439	437-693	.631	611	1801



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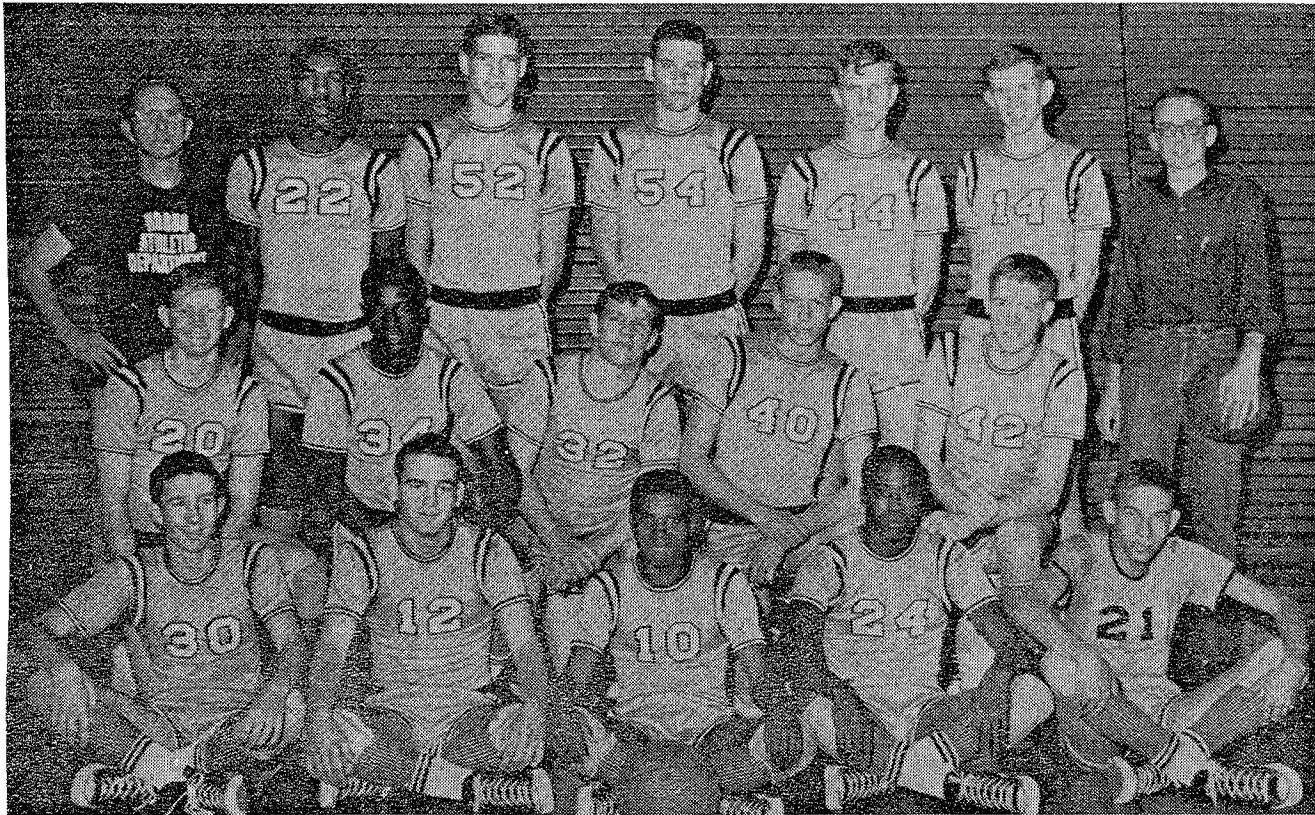
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ROSWELL
622-5612



1962-63 Eagles (Top Row L-R) Coach Tasker, Tom Carter, Joe Ussery, Gary Overbeck, Scotty Klein, Jimmy McAdams, manager Steve Cummings. (Middle Row) John Stafford, Clifford Powell, Billy Gottshall, Roger Easley, Floyd Abbott. (Bottom Row) John Barlow, Dennis Patton, Jimmy Clay, Jimmy Bridges, Wendell Gray.

1962-63

Close doesn't count -- at least it doesn't count as much, as the Eagles took state champion Roswell to the wire at the state tournament and came out 2nd in a 65-64 overtime contest that many feel should have gone the other way.

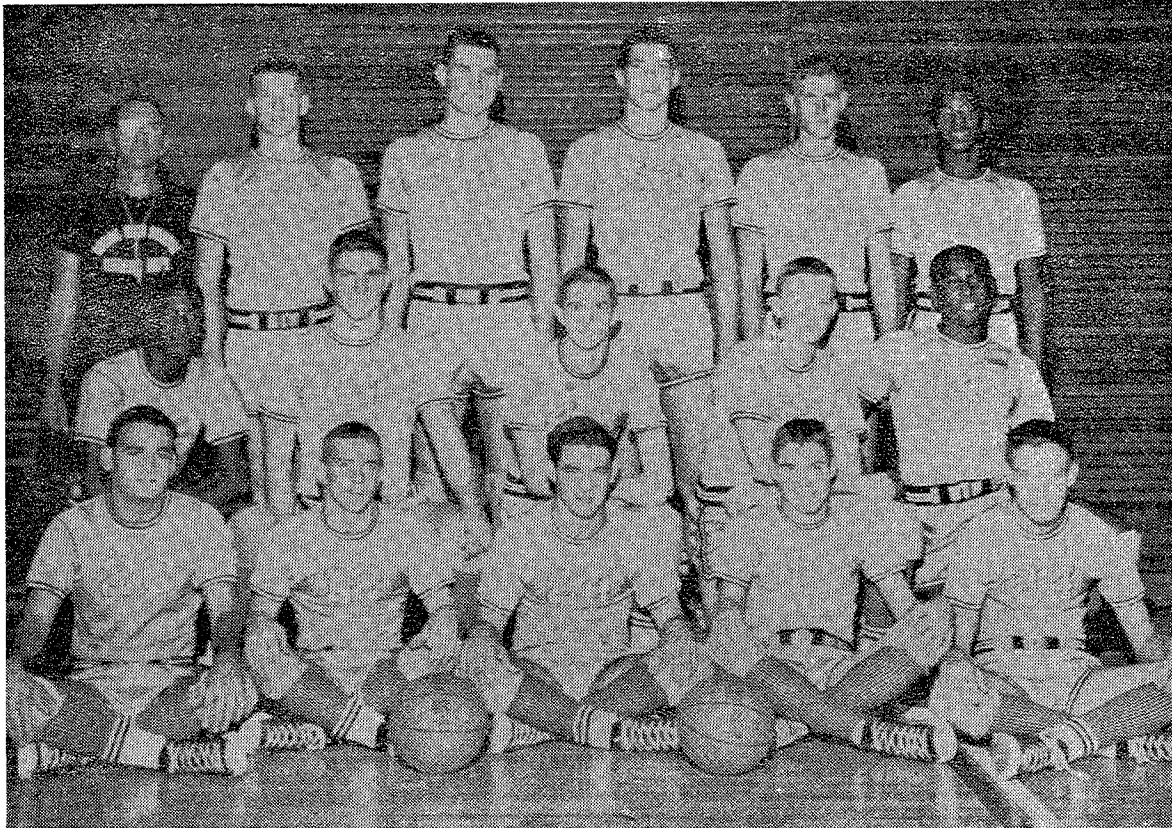
The 27-1 Eagles made it through the rest of the season without a blemish, rolling up 2026 points to 1605 for their opposition. They were the 11th team from Hobbs to go to the state tournament, and the first to take the runner-up trophy. Three teams have won and the 1960 team claimed 3rd.

NAME	FG	FT	F	TP
Clifford Powell	126	78	51	328
Joe Ussery	120	117	101	357
Gary Overbeck.....	109	37	60	254
John Stafford.....	37	33	54	108
Dennis Patton	57	32	69	146
Tom Carter	110	40	86	260
Scotty Klein	32	35	56	99
Jimmy Bridges	106	63	74	275
Jimmy Clay	19	38	45	76
Billy Gottshall	5	7	19	17
Jim McAdams	2	0	6	4
John Barlow.....	9	10	15	28
Wendell Gray.....	2	0	4	4
Floyd Abbott	17	19	27	43
Others	6	3	14	27
TOTALS	757	512	661	2026

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1963-64 Eagles (Back Row L-R) Coach Ralph Tasker, Andy Peterson, Gary Overbeck, Joe Ussery, Ronnie Clifton, Roy Lee Ford. (Middle Row) Robert Evans, Bob Echols (manager), Dennis Beaty, Marvin Schmitt, Charlie Pruitt. (Bottom Row) Dennis Patton, Dean Williams, Randy Smith, Danny Watkins, and Rusty Haskett.

Frustration at the top can best describe the '64 Eagles, some of whom experienced the overtime loss to Roswell in last year's finals and who fought to within 1 point before falling 79-80 in Albuquerque again to the Coyotes.

The '64 Eagles scored over 100 points 12 times in compiling a 26-2 record. (Hobbs record number of wins is 30.) They scored 2777 points to set a school record for total points as well as the highest average of 99.2 points per game. They also put together a 22 game win streak between their two losses.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	F	TP
Joe Ussery	209-427	.480	137-194	.706	96	555
Gary Overbeck	222-351	.630	93-129	.720	76	537
Robert Evans	139-281	.490	44-76	.570	93	322
Dennis Patton	73-193	.370	45-64	.703	73	191
Dean Williams	97-235	.410	78-109	.715	89	272
Ronnie Clifton	11-27	.400	7-12	.580	9	29
Randy Smith	86-186	.460	52-75	.690	80	225
Charlie Pruitt	99-222	.440	64-90	.711	81	262
Andy Peterson	19-52	.360	30-43	.690	34	68
Rusty Heskett	2-4	.500	0-1	.000	2	4
Marvin Schmitt	46-108	.420	22-32	.680	50	115
Danny Watkins	25-72	.340	24-38	.630	34	74
Roy Lee Ford	41-83	.490	27-44	.610	35	109
Fidel Jimenez	0-2	.000	0	.000	0	0
TOTALS	1073-2260	.470	631-925	.680	737	2777

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HOBBS EAGLES: Individual Records

POINTS (SEASON)

777	Richard Robinson, 1973
734	Larry Robinson, 1970
715	Tony Benford, 1982
598	Kent Williams, 1976
590	Kim Nash, 1956
579	Bill Bridges, 1957
576	Richard Robinson, 1972 (jr.)
556	Jeff Taylor, 1978
555	Joe Ussery, 1964
554	Harry Ward, 1969
539	Steve Smith, 1978
537	Gary Overbeck, 1964
513	Hardy Ray Murphy, 1966
511	Elmer Morganthaler, 1942

POINTS (CAREER)

1,611	Richard Robinson, 1971-73
1,490	Wallace Williams, 1978-80
1,358	Jeff Taylor, 1976-78
1,347	Tony Benford, 1980-82
1,221	Hollice Clay, 1958-60
1,218	Vince Taylor, 1979-81
1,188	Steve Smith, 1976-78
1,140	Larry Robinson, 1969-70
1,090	Mike Smith, 1978-80
989	Kim Nash, 1955-56
972	Harry Ward, 1968-69
959	Bill Bridges, 1956-57
941	Roy Lee Ford, 1964-66

SCORING AVERAGE (SEASON)

28.7	Richard Robinson, 1973
27.5	Tony Benford, 1982
27.2	Larry Robinson, 1970
25.4	Jeff Taylor, 1978
24.3	Vince Taylor, 1981
22.3	Kent Williams, 1976
21.3	Richard Robinson, 1972 (jr.)
20.6	Eugene Smith, 1973
20.5	Harry Ward, 1969
20.0	Bill Bridges, 1957

SCORING AVERAGE (CAREER)

21.1	Larry Robinson, 1969-70
19.6	Richard Robinson, 1971-73
19.1	Jeff Taylor, 1976-78
17.7	Harry Ward, 1968-69
16.7	Tony Benford, 1980-82
16.4	Joe Ussery, 1963-64
16.0	Kim Nash, 1955-57
16.0	Vince Taylor, 1979-81
15.5	Bill Bridges, 1956-57

REBOUNDS (GAME)

32	Vince Taylor vs. Lovington, 1980
29	Bill Bridges vs. Carlsbad, 1957
28	Tony Benford vs. Canutillo, TX, 1981
28	Vince Taylor vs. Carlsbad, 1981
25	Bill Bridges vs. Clovis, 1957
25	Bill Bridges vs. Artesia, 1957
23	Bill Bridges vs. Seminole, TX., 1957
22	Bill Bridges vs. Phillips, TX., 1956
22	Tony Benford vs. Odessa Permian, 1980
22	Vince Taylor vs. Roswell Goddard, 1981
21	Bill Bridges vs. Carlsbad, 1957
21	Bill Bridges vs. Albuquerque Valley, 1957
21	Larry Robinson vs. Abilene High, 1969
21	Vince Taylor vs. Roswell Goddard, 1980
21	Vince Taylor vs. Bernalillo, 1980
21	Vince Taylor vs. Midland High, 1980

AVERAGE REBOUNDS (SEASON)

23.3	Bill Bridges, 1957
16.4	Vince Taylor, 1981
16.3	Tony Benford, 1982
12.9	Larry Robinson, 1970
12.6	Jeff Taylor, 1978
12.3	Tony Benford, 1981 (jr.)
12.1	Larry Williams, 1970
12.1	Jeff Taylor, 1977 (jr.)
11.8	Eugene Smith, 1972 (jr.)
11.6	Vince Taylor, 1980 (jr.)
11.5	Hollice Clay, 1959
11.3	Eugene Smith, 1973
11.2	Bill Bridges, 1956 (jr.)

REBOUNDS (CAREER)

1,045	Bill Bridges, 1956-57
922	Vince Taylor, 1979-81
859	Tony Benford, 1980-82
772	Jeff Taylor, 1976-78
670	Richard Robinson, 1971-73
624	Eugene Smith, 1972-73

BLOCKED SHOTS (GAME)

5	Eugene Smith vs. Las Cruces, 1973
5	Jeff Taylor vs. Carlsbad, 1977

ASSISTS (GAME)

20	Mike Smith vs. Clovis, 1980
17	Mike Smith vs. Albuquerque Valley, 1978
14	Mike Smith vs. Carlsbad, 1980
14	Mike Smith vs. Roswell, 1980
13	Max Proctor vs. Artesia, 1967
13	Mike Smith vs. Levelland, TX., 1979
13	Mike Smith vs. Carlsbad, 1978

ASSISTS (CAREER)

604	Mike Smith, 1978-80
485	Wallace Williams, 1978-80
331	Vic Singleton, 1976-78
323	Darryl Jones, 1974-76
257	Wayne Brewer, 1981-82
221	Donnie Jackson, 1971-72
218	Craig Willman, 1976-78

CONSECUTIVE FREE THROWS

46	Max Proctor, 1966-67
33	Max Proctor, 1967
31	Gary Overbeck, 1964

MOST FREE THROWS (GAME)

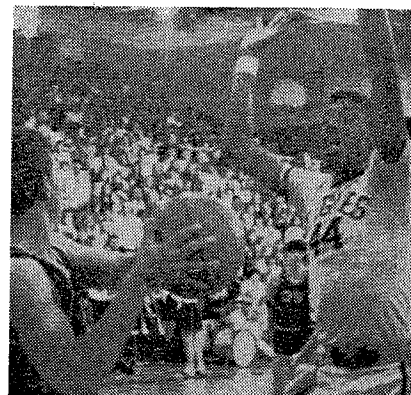
15	Kim Nash vs. Carlsbad, 1956
14	Jeff Taylor vs. Abilene High, 1977
12	Gary Overbeck vs. Roswell, 1964
12	Danny Watkins vs. Albuquerque Highland, 1966

MOST FREE THROWS (SEASON)

123	Vic Singleton, 1978
116	Max Proctor, 1967
115	Henry Taylor, 1974
106	Rod Williams, 1977
101	Vince Benford, 1982

MOST FREE THROWS (CAREER)

229	Wallace Williams, 1978-80
229	Tony Benford, 1980-82
203	Vic Singleton, 1976-78
202	Vince Taylor, 1979-81



Larry Robinson, 1970

FREE THROW PERCENTAGE

(50 Attempts or More)

.821	Robert Brooks, 1970
.815	Duane Henry, 1970
.815	Junior Hutchings, 1973
.807	Donnie Jackson, 1972
.783	Wallace Williams, 1979 (jr.)
.776	Tony Benford, 1982
.774	Jay Swinney, 1978
.774	Ronald Ross, 1980
.762	Kent Williams, 1976
.756	Wallace Williams, 1980
.756	Zac Sharp, 1981

FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE

(100 Attempts or More)

.665	Larry Robinson, 1970
.659	Larry Williams, 1970
.640	Gary Overbeck, 1963 (jr.)
.640	Randall Pugh, 1970
.636	Jeff Hannah, 1978 (jr.)
.634	Kent Williams, 1975 (jr.)
.618	Eugene Smith, 1973
.615	Kevin Keeling, 1975

MOST POINTS (GAME)

49	Larry Robinson vs. Carlsbad, 1970
45	Kim Nash vs. Carlsbad, 1956
45	Richard Robinson vs. El Paso Riversido, 1972
43	Richard Robinson vs. Alamogordo, 1973
43	Richard Robinson vs. Roswell, 1973
43	Steve Smith vs. Roswell, 1978
40	Larry Robinson vs. Albuquerque, 1970
40	Richard Robinson vs. Odessa Ector, 1972
40	Jeff Taylor vs. Roswell, 1978
40	Vince Taylor vs. Roswell, 1981
39	Larry Robinson vs. Roswell Goddard, 1970
38	Tony Benford vs. Abilene High, 1981
38	Elmer Morganthaler vs. Roswell, 1942
38	Vince Taylor vs. Lovington, 1980
37	Richard Hall vs. Carlsbad, 1958
37	Richard Robinson vs. El Paso Bel Air, 1971
36	Tony Benford vs. El Paso Irvin, 1981
35	Elmer Morganthaler vs. Corona, 1942
35	Larry Robinson vs. Abilene High, 1969
35	Larry Robinson vs. Alamogordo, 1970
35	Richard Robinson vs. Houston Wheatley, 1972
35	Eugene Smith vs. Albuquerque, 1973
35	Kent Williams vs. Carlsbad, 1976
35	Kent Williams vs. Las Cruces, 1976

HOBBS EAGLES: *Team Records*

MOST POINTS (GAME)

176 vs. Roswell (49), 1978
 170 vs. Carlsbad (104), 1970
 159 vs. Roswell (66), 1981
 155 vs. Canutillo, Texas (46), 1981
 152 vs. Lawton, Okla. (46), 1981
 147 vs. Levelland, TX (81), 1980
 145 vs. Odessa Permian (109, 1979)
 143 vs. Lubbock Dunbar (84), 1970
 142 vs. Bernalillo (89), 1981
 139 vs. Midland Lee (83), 1970
 139 vs. Espanola (50), 1970

MOST POINTS (HALF)

101 vs. Carlsbad, 1970
 91 vs. Roswell, 1978
 85 vs. Roswell, 1978
 81 vs. Canutillo, TX 1981
 81 vs. Lawton, Okla., 1981
 80 vs. Levelland, TX, 1980
 80 vs. Roswell, 1981
 79 vs. Roswell, 1981
 77 vs. Clovis, 1967
 77 vs. Abilene High, 1970
 77 vs. Roswell Goddard, 1981

MOST POINTS (QUARTER)

51 vs. Carlsbad, 1970
 50 vs. Carlsbad, 1970
 48 vs. Clovis, 1970
 48 vs. Clovis, 1971
 48 vs. Roswell, 1978
 48 vs. Roswell Goddard, 1981
 48 vs. Canutillo, TX., 1981

MOST POINTS (TWO TEAMS)

274 Hobbs 170, Carlsbad 104, 1970
 254 Hobbs 145, Odessa Permian 109, 1979
 244 Carlsbad 123, Hobbs 121, 1972
 243 Hobbs 135, Carlsbad 108, 1970
 236 ... Hobbs 128, Andrews, TX 108, 1980
 235 ... Hobbs 133, Midland Lee 102, 1969
 234 Hobbs 137, Clovis 97, 1967
 229 Hobbs 137, Lovington 92, 1973
 228 .. Hobbs 128, Abilene High 100, 1977
 228 ... Hobbs 147, Levelland, TX 81, 1980

LARGEST WINNING MARGIN

127 Hobbs 176, Roswell 46, 1978
 109... Hobbs 155, Canutillo, TX 46, 1981
 106 ... Hobbs 152, Lawton, OK. 46, 1981
 94 Hobbs 159, Roswell 65, 1981
 89 Hobbs 139, Espanola 50, 1970
 86 ... Hobbs 124, Monahans, TX 38, 1955
 81 .. Hobbs 137, Abilene Cooper 56, 1980
 80 Hobbs 136, Carlsbad 56, 1980
 71 Hobbs 140, Carlsbad 69, 1978
 70 Hobbs 90, NMMI 20, 1956

MOST POINTS (LOSING GAME)

121 vs. Carlsbad (123), 1972
 106 vs. Carlsbad (110), 1971
 106 vs. Houston Wheatley (114), 1972
 103 vs. Clovis (104), 1978
 103 vs. Clovis (104), 1980
 100 vs. Clovis (110), 1970 (OT)

WORST DEFEATS (POINTS)

46 Midland High 98, Hobbs 52, 1971
 37 Carlsbad 55, Hobbs 18, 1934
 28..... Abilene High 112, Hobbs 84, 1976
 27..... Eunice 39, Hobbs 12, 1947
 27..... Eunice 54, Hobbs 27, 1949

MOST POINTS BY OPPONENT

123 Carlsbad vs. 121, 1972
 114 Houston Wheatley vs. 106, 1972
 112..... Abilene High vs. 84, 1976
 110 Carlsbad vs. 106, 1971
 110 Las Cruces vs. 96, 1976
 110..... Clovis vs. 100, 1978 (OT)
 109 Carlsbad vs. 114, 1971
 109 Clovis vs. 114, 1972
 109 Odessa Permian vs. 145, 1979

ASSISTS (GAME)

66 vs. Roswell, 1978
 63 vs. Roswell, 1981
 52 vs. Carlsbad, 1980
 46 vs. Canutillo, Texas, 1981
 45 vs. Clovis, 1973
 43 vs. Bernalillo, 1981
 43 vs. Clovis, 1978
 43 vs. Albuquerque Valley, 1978

FORCE TURNOVERS

75 vs. Roswell, 1978
 73 vs. Lawton, OK., 1981
 63 vs. Roswell Goddard, 1979
 59 vs. Levelland, TX, 1980
 57 vs. Abilene Cooper, 1980
 55 vs. Roswell, 1981
 54 vs. Albuquerque Valley, 1978
 51 vs. Albuquerque Valley, 1978

FEWEST POINTS BY OPPONENT

4 Tatum vs. 42, 1942
 6 Jal vs. 28, 1938
 8 Eunice vs. 39, 1939
 8 Hope vs. 28, 1939
 9 Roswell vs. 16, 1939
 10 Jal vs. 23, 1938
 11 Clovis vs. 23, 1940
 12 Jal vs. 28, 1935

MOST REBOUNDS (GAME)

84 vs. Roswell, 1978
 78 vs. Lovington, 1980
 74 vs. Andrews, TX, 1980
 72 vs. Odessa Ector, 1982
 72 vs. Plainview, TX, 1977
 72 vs. Albuquerque Valley, 1978
 72 vs. Canutillo, TX, 1981
 69 vs. Mesa (AZ) Mt. View, 1979
 69 vs. Abilene Cooper, 1980
 68 vs. Roswell, 1978
 67 vs. El Paso Parkland, 1978
 67 vs. Abilene Cooper, 1976
 67 vs. East Phoenix (AZ), 1977
 67 vs. Odessa Permian, 1980

FEWEST POINTS (HOBBS)

3 vs. Lovington, 1937
 3 vs. Eunice, 1937
 3 vs. Eunice, 1941

MOST FOULS (TWO TEAMS)

84. Hobbs (45) vs. East Phoenix (39), 1976
 78.... Hobbs (38) vs. Lovington (40), 1971
 76 Hobbs (36) vs. Albuquerque Valley (40), 1963
 71.... Hobbs (38) vs. Carlsbad (34), 1981
 70 .. Hobbs (40) vs. Altus, Okla. (30), 1979
 69.... Hobbs (34) vs. Lovington (35), 1973
 66. Hobbs (38) vs. Odessa Permian (28), 1980

MOST FREE THROW ATTEMPTS (TWO TEAMS)

111 ... Hobbs vs. East Phoenix (AZ), 1976
 101 . Hobbs vs. Albuquerque Valley, 1963

CONSECUTIVE FREE THROWS (GAME)

23 vs. Abilene High, 1977.

OVERTIMES (GAME)

2..... Lovington 35, Hobbs 33, 1949
 2..... Roswell 59, Hobbs 57, 1955
 2 Santa Rosa 65, Hobbs 63, 1955
 2..... Hobbs 63, Roswell 59, 1963
 2 Midland Lee 93, Hobbs 90, 1972
 2 . Hobbs 103, Odessa Permian 100, 1975

SCORING AVERAGE

114.6..... 1970 (26-1)
 111.6..... 1981 (26-0)
 108.3..... 1982 (23-3)
 105.7..... 1971 (25-3)
 104.4..... 1980 (27-2)
 103.1..... 1978 (26-2)
 100.5..... 1973 (22-5)
 99.2..... 1064 (26-2)
 97.4..... 1972 (20-7)
 96.7..... 1969 (25-2)

100-POINT GAMES (SEASON)

20 1970 (26-1)
 18 1981 (26-0)
 17 1982 (23-3)
 17 1980 (27-2)
 16 1971 (25-3)
 16 1978 (26-3)
 13 1973 (22-5)
 12 1964 (26-2)
 11 1972 (20-7)
 10 1967 (25-1)
 10 1969 (25-2)

CONSECUTIVE 100-POINT GAMES

14 1970 (26-1)
 7..... 1982 (23-3)
 6..... 1981 (26-0)
 5..... 1964 (26-2)
 5..... 1978 (26-3)
 5..... 1980 (27-2)

CONSECUTIVE WINS

53 1965-57
 49 1980-82
 30 1955-57
 29 1967-68
 27 1962-63
 25 1969-70
 24 1977-78
 22 1956-57
 22 1963-64

(Continued on Pg. 52)

1964 • EAGLES BUILDING FOR FUTURE - STILL 4TH • 1965



1964-65 EAGLES (No. 1.D.)

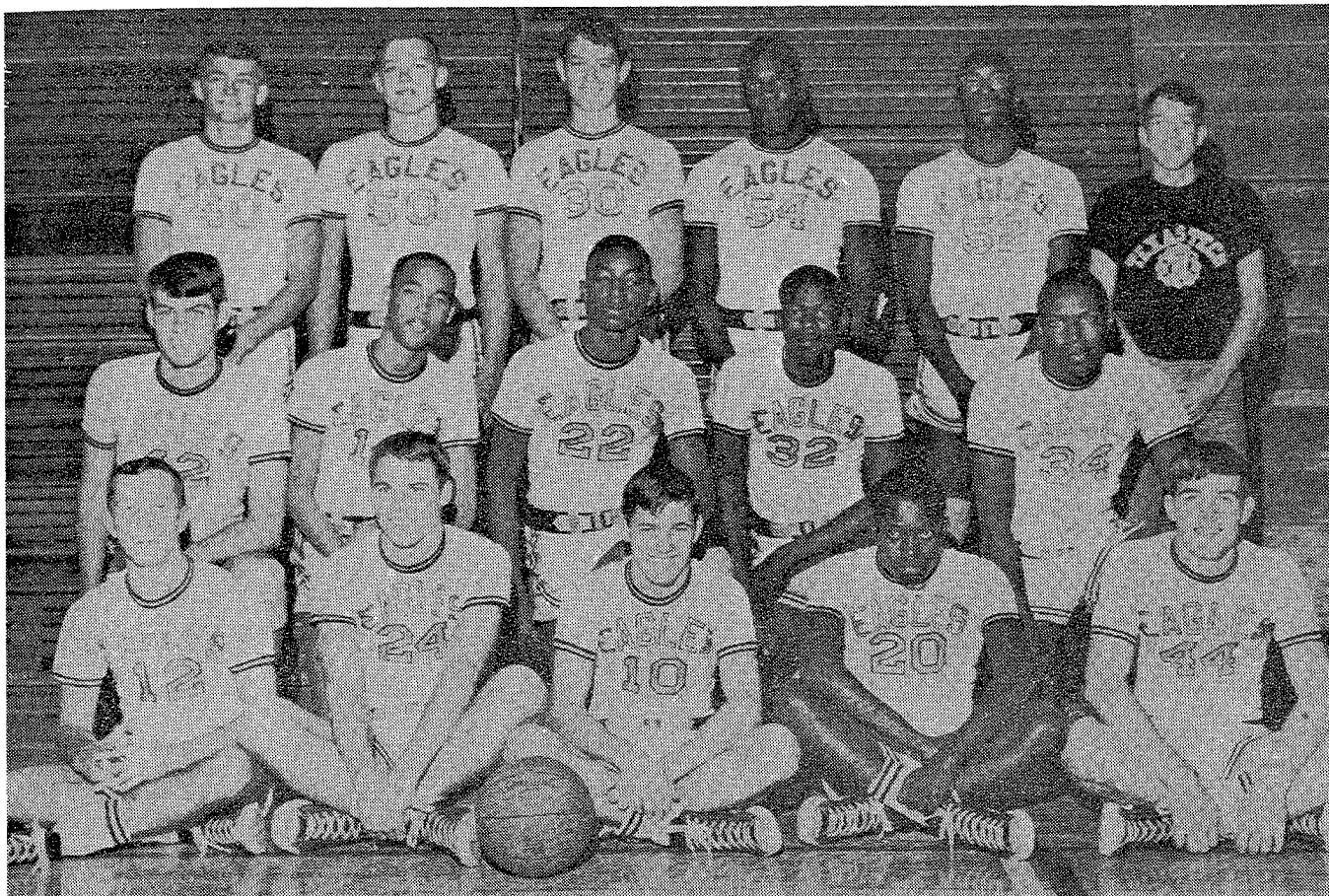
The 1964-65 Eagles began the longest string of home court wins (49) and rolled to a 19-10 record in route to 4th place in the 1965 state tournament.

The Eagles continued the fireworks with an 88.9 point per game pace throughout the year as they hit (according to our source) a Eagle high .731 free throw percentage. In any case the 2578 points for the season was more than respectable as another fine Eagle team carried the Gold and Black to state.

NAME	FG	FT-FTM	PCT.	F	TP
Marvin Schmitt.....	184	130-156	.83	70	498
Roy Lee Ford.....	137	139-198	.70	83	413
Danny Watkins.....	69	53-75	.70	69	191
Hardy Ray Murphy.....	100	100-120	.83	71	300
Chip Fenner.....	54	32-50	.64	53	140
Jimmy Denton.....	47	36-52	.69	67	130
Max Proctor.....	30	16-25	.64	23	76
Rusty Heskett.....	105	54-77	.701	68	264
Frank Spencer.....	63	59-91	.648	65	185
Fidel Jimenez.....	42	54-77	.701	70	138
Ricky Booker.....	54	48-64	.750	82	156
Jeff Stoltz.....	33	19-24	.792	26	84
TOTALS	919	740-1011	.731	747	2578

<p>THE HOCK SHOP</p> <p>303 W. MARLAND</p>	<p>ECONOMIC CRUNCH?</p> <p><i>Check our stocks of unredeemed pledges of Guns - T.V.'s - Tools - Jewelry - Sterios - and many other quality items — Get the most for your money —</i></p>	<p>HOCK SHOP</p> <p>II</p> <p>203 N. DAL PASO</p>
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1965 • UNDEFEATED STATE CHAMPIONS • 1966




1965-66 Eagles (Top L-R) Jack Wisdom, Mike Holladay, Chip Fenner, Danny Wilver, Dwayne Terry, Don McPheron, Mgr. (Center L-R) Jeff Stoltz, Hardy Ray Murphy, Roy Lee Ford, William DeFreeze, Larnell Lipscomb, (Bottom Row L-R) Jimmy Denton, Danny Watkins, Max Proctor, Herbert Lewis, Steve Adkins.

Another team in the race for "Greatest Eagle Team", the 1965-66 Eagles, added state championship #5 to the list of laurels for Hobbs High School and Ralph Tasker.

Capturing the Holiday Tournament after last year's first non-Hobbs champion was only the first milestone captured as the T-men rolled to the first undefeated season for coach Tasker and his charges as they mowed down all comers for a 28-0 record. This group layed the foundation for Hobbs longest win streak.

In typical Eagle fashion, the champs averaged 92.8 points per game as the undefeated champions added their names to the list of Eagles of mention.

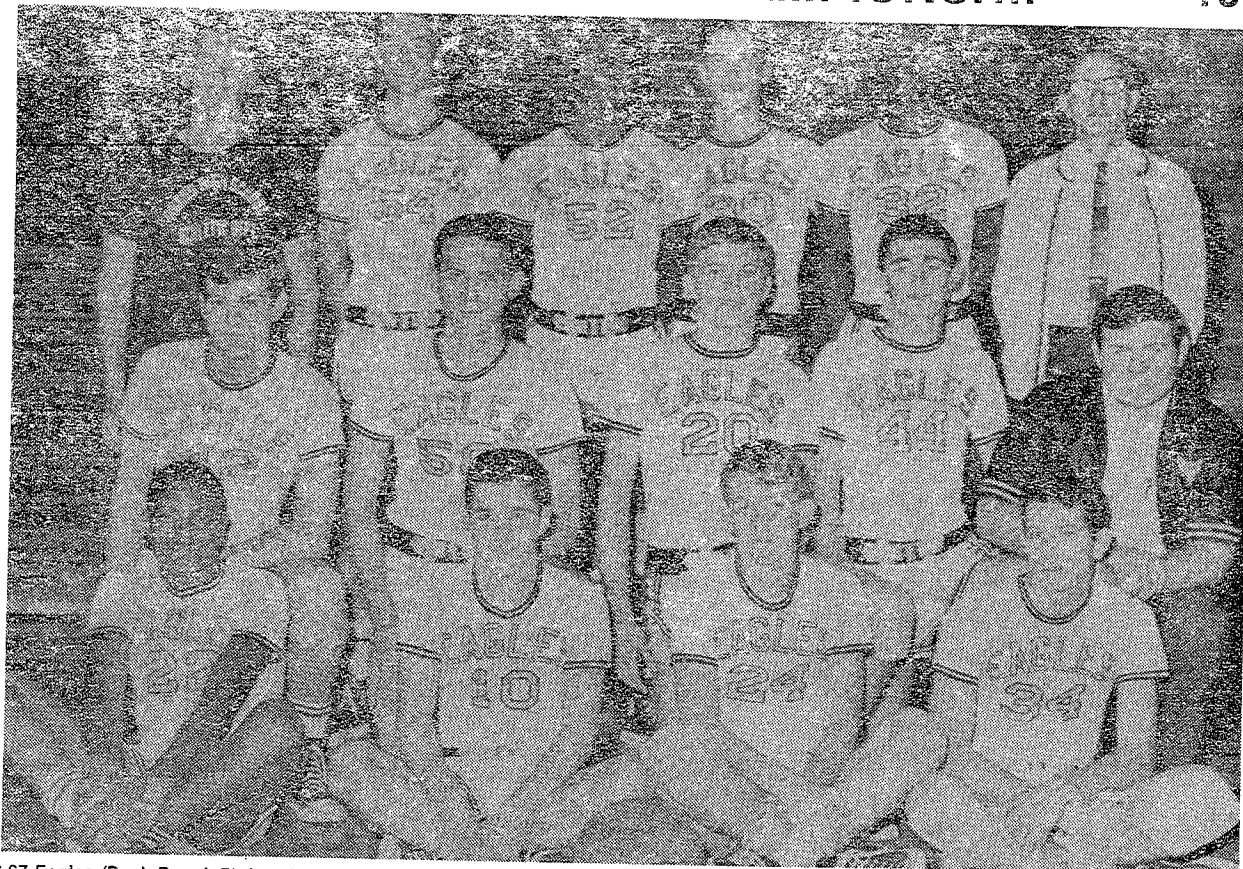
NAME	FG	FT-FTM	PCT.	F	TP
Roy Lee Ford.....	159	101-144	.701	63	419
Hardy Murphy.....	198	117-152	.769	64	513
Danny Watkins.....	123	98-124	.790	79	344
Chip Fenner.....	80	78-101	.772	61	238
Jeff Stoltz.....	134	37-51	.725	40	305
Jack Wisdom.....	45	46-69	.667	84	136
Jimmy Denton.....	27	19-20	.950	35	73
Max Proctor.....	60	31-36	.861	28	151
Mike Holladay.....	34	27-54	.500	38	95
Danny Silver.....	17	12-23	.500	14	46
William DeFreeze.....	43	35-53	.667	52	120
Steve Adkins.....	28	21-31	.677	32	77
Herb Lewis.....	8	3-8	.375	10	19
Larnell Lipscomb.....	11	1-5	.200	9	23
Dwayne Terry.....	10	20-23	.869	27	40
TOTALS	977	646-896	.720	556	2600



Hobbs / Lovington / Eunice / Jal

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1966-67 Eagles (Back Row L-R) Coach Abbott, Mike Walstad, Dwayne Terry, John Fenner, Wiggie DeFreeze, Coach Tasker. (Middle Row) Jeff Stoltz, Doyle Smith, Danny Whitlock, Teddy Harrell, Pete Cook, manager. (Front Row) Sam Smith, Max Proctor, Ronnie Morgan, Bobby Gray.

Called the team whose accomplishment was the greatest of any Eagle squad, the 1966-67 Eagles won 25 straight games, after Tasker had earlier said they had little chance of winning a game.

Tasker said, "I found out this was the hardest working team I ever had. ---This team had so far to go -- it was a team of team work."

The Eagles almost continued another string of state titles for Hobbs as they continued the Eagles longest win streak and ran it to 53 games in route to their lone loss to Clovis for the state title.

As Coach Ross Black of NMJC said "You were great in your loss as you were in winning. I'm not going to say you were beaten -- I don't think you were beaten -- time just ran out on you."

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	F	TP
Max Proctor	111-229	.480	110-118	.932	71	324
Dan Whitlock	33-68	.480	23-33	.696	27	89
Sam Smith	43-80	.33-44	.750	.45	126	
Ron Morgan	71-162	.430	68-92	.739	55	210
John Fenner	56-117	.470	33-54	.611	49	145
Weggie DeFreeze	164-266	.610	118-171	.690	94	446
Bob Gray	17-40	.420	16-26	.615	22	50
Jeff Stoltz	167-388	.430	55-82	.670	41	389
Teddy Harrell	20-34	.580	5-12	.416	315	45
Doyle Smith	46-70	.650	33-46	.717	41	125
DeWayne Terry	73-138	.520	52-81	.703	54	203
Mike Walstad	73-117	.620	64-120	.533	82	210
TOTALS	875-1702	.510	615-879	.711	610	2365

The Now Printers.



Sharon Birmingham

(505) 393-7505

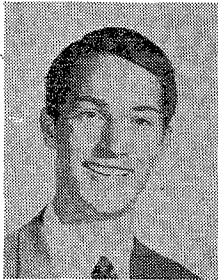
114 W. Snyder
Hobbs, NM 88240

1967

EAGLES REGAIN CROWN

1968

1967-68 EAGLES



John Fenner



Tommy French



Bobby Gray



Claude Heaven



Teddy Harrell



Ed Jeffers



Karrel Lewis



Rick Maroney



Sammy Smith



Rusty Taylor



Duane Terry



Harry Ward



Larry Williams



Danny Whitlock



Kenny Taylor, Mgr.

Hobbs 103 - Los Alamos 79 is not very unusual for New Mexicans to see scores of that nature, but this one was for the state championship where the Eagles wrapped up their 5th state title in a record breaking offensive show seen in few or any high school contests as they scored 314 points in three games and topped the century mark in all three. It wasn't all offense, however, as the opponents averaged 78.6.

Hobbs leaves a 25 game win streak for the 1978-79 Eagles to carry forward next year.

For 3/4 of the season, the Eagles "just won" but didn't blow everyone away in typical Eagle fashion, but came on strong and ended up with a "respectable" 86.1/game scoring record vs. 63.5 for opponents. Coach TAsker was named AA Coach of the Year for the 6th year of the 8 year old award.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	F	TP
Tommy Franch	14-34	.410	9-21	.428	31	37
Rusty Taylor.....	7-17	.410	21-25	.840	6	35
Teddy Harrell.....	60-126	.470	36-59	.610	76	156
Danny Whitlock	109-188	.570	107-138	.755	45	325
Sam Smith	105-211	.490	33-47	.702	59	243
Karel Lewis.....	37-61	.570	29-46	.630	53	103
John Fenner.....	107-216	.500	59-109	.541	56	273
Bobby Gray.....	28-67	.410	17-36	.472	47	73
Harry Ward.....	175-288	.610	68-114	.596	59	418
Larry Williams.....	96-188	.510	36-53	.679	54	228
Dwayne Terry.....	112-288	.380	51-69	.739	46	275
Claude Heaven.....	25-56	.440	8-26	.307	20	58
Ed Jeffers.....	57-97	.587	32-51	.627	29	146
Rick Maroney.....	15-31	.480	11-26	.423	28	41
TOTALS	947-1868	.510	517-820	.630	620	2411

1968 • TASKER NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR • 1969

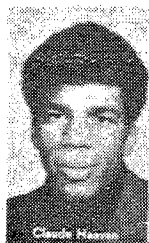
1968-69 eagles



Ed Jeffers



Ronnie Renchler



Claude Heaven



Larry Williams



James Dickerson



Bill Boyd, Mgr.



Tim Tasker



Larry Robinson



James Singleton



Randall Pugh



Robert Brooks



Duane Henry



Bobby Daniels



Harry Ward

Led by the National High School Coach of the Year, Ralph Tasker, the Hobbs Eagles wrapped up their 6th state cage crown (2nd in a row) as they smashed Albuquerque High 103-75 as fans were snowed in as well as out of Albuquerque while the Eagles warmed up the hardwood.

Tasker coached teams have now won 105 of their last 109 games, with this team adding its 25-2 record to the stack.

The Eagles scored over 100 points 10 times this year, while starting what is to be a 25 game win streak that continues into 1970. The 96.7 points per game scoring pace leaves this team in 2nd place behind the 1964 team at 99.2.

NAME	FG	FT-FTM	PCT.	F	TP
Harry Ward	225	103-174	.592	81	554
Larry Williams	6	1-2	.500	9	13
Claude Heaven	23	16-32	.500	14	62
Bobby Daniels	105	48-74	.648	49	258
James Singleton	116	117-155	.754	81	349
Ronnie Renchler	53	35-51	.660	36	141
Ed Jeffers	57	30-57	.526	43	144
Bob Skinner	1	0-1	0	1	2
Robert Brooks	108	66-91	.719	57	282
James "Poochie" Dickerson	28	6-19	.316	18	60
Duane Henry	48	35-44	.795	44	131
Randall Pugh	64	43-62	.694	50	171
Larry Robinson	153	100-152	.657	53	406
Tim Tasker	20	4-12	.333	23	42
TOTALS	1007	604-923	.654	560	2618



HOBBS EAGLES:

by Manny Marquez

Sixth Man

The wall-to-wall crowd at Ralph Tasker Arena is buzzing in anticipation. It's a big-game night for the Hobbs Eagles and the people without reserved-seat tickets had to hurry to claim a seat in the 3,500-seat gymnasium on the Hobbs High School campus.

Suddenly, a door on the east-side of the gym flies open . . . out step seven little, bitty guys with a basketball . . . they're being followed by 12 not-so-little guys in black-and-gold uniforms . . . the drummer on the Taskervitch Band strikes a cowbell three times . . . and HHS pep bands break into a familiar tune . . . and the crowd goes bananas.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's showtime!

From the second the Hobbs Eagles, led by the familiar mascots, set foot on the floor until the final second is erased

from the scoreboard clock and another victory is safely tucked away in the history books, the "show" in the arena named for Ralph Tasker, the legendary coach of the famed Hobbs Eagles, defies description.

"You have to see it to believe it," says Barry Sollenberger, publisher of the Southwest Sports News Service in Phoenix, Arizona.

Sollenberger, who published the program for the Hobbs Holiday Tournament for several years, was so impressed with what took place between the walls of Tasker Arena that he asked for and received permission to use Ringling Brothers-Barnum and Bailey's Circus logo in the 1978 and 1979 tournament programs.

The logo reads: The Greatest Show on Earth."

Nobody who has ever seen it

will argue the point.

What makes it the "greatest" is a perfect blend of out-of-this-world basketball on the part of the Hobbs Eagles and the reaction of one of the most basketball-educated crowds to be found anywhere. Throw in the mascots, cheerleaders and the famed Taskervitch Band -- "They make the sweetest music this side of heaven," Tasker proclaims -- and you've got what Ralph Tasker fondly calls his "Sixth Man."

Together the Eagles and their Sixth Man are a tough combination to beat.

"It's like trying to play the Lobos in the Pit in Albuquerque," claims Clovis Coach Jimmy Joe Robinson, the last coach to beat Tasker and in the Eagles in Tasker Arena.

That was way back in 1978. Going into this season, the

Eagles had won 42 home-court outings in a row.

While it may prove like trying to scale Mount Everest for opponents, the thrill-a-second style of play turns on first-time viewers.

Ross McKeon, a sports writer from San Jose, California, who came to the 1980 Holiday Tournament to cover Amador Valley High School, which was playing in Hobbs that year, put it on paper like this: "Once you're inside the gymnasium, it's a circus atmosphere. The crowd seemingly electrifies the players with its constant noise. You would be hard pressed to find better support for high school athletics anywhere around the country.

"Going from a Hobbs basketball game to one in the Bay Area is like going from a party to a funeral."

Nobody loves it more than Ralph Tasker.

"It's rewarding when you play a little team like Canutillo and our fans turn out like they do," Tasker said. "I didn't expect they'd be 30 people here for that game. So I came out of the dressing room for our warmups and I couldn't believe it. The gym was full. Seeing all those people come out for a game like this, that makes it all worthwhile."

And, then there are the big games.

Many a time the Hobbs fire marshall has had to order the doors at Tasker Arena closed to keep people from jamming into an arena where there are no more empty seats. It's happened several times during the Hobbs Holiday Tournament when the Eagles have hooked up with the likes of East Phoenix, Phoenix St. Mary's, Dallas South Oak Cliff and Amador Valley.

The games against the two Arizona schools are the ones that really stick in Tasker's mind where the crowd got the Eagles off on the right foot.

"That Sixth Man was really something in the Holiday Tour-



namment when we played St. Mary's and East Phoenix," Tasker said. "That St. Mary's was a fine team. The excitement in that gym . . . I've never seen anything like it -- not even in the state tournament. That's one game that will always stand out in my mind because of the way our Sixth Man responded to the challenge. They pulled us through that one."

It's not the only game that Tasker can remember the Sixth Man coming to the Eagles' rescue.

Tasker remembers a game against Carlsbad in 1967 in which the Eagles wiped out a 15-point deficit in the final quarter to win it. And, there was a game in Clovis in 1981 in which Hobbs was down 17 points to the state's No. 2-ranked team in the final four minutes and somehow managed to come back to win it 103-102 in overtime.

The Eagles didn't do it by themselves, Tasker insists.

"That comeback against Carlsbad where we were trailing by 15 points in the fourth quarter, our fans brought us back," Tasker said. "And, in that game in Clovis, our Sixth Man was incredible. They wouldn't let us

quit. We weren't playing inspired basketball or hustling, but they got after our guys until they started playing like the Hobbs Eagles. The Carlsbad and Clovis comebacks are so clear in my mind. I can still hear our fans encouraging those Hobbs Eagles.

"We certainly would have gotten beat by 20 points both times had it not been for our Sixth Man."

Ralph Tasker and longtime followers of the Hobbs Eagles can remember when it wasn't quite like that.

"The night we dedicated Eagle Gym (Tasker won't call it Tasker Arena), we were playing Lubbock High and we got beat by 12 points," Tasker said. "We didn't even have to pull out the bleachers upstairs."

Tasker credits State Representative Harry McAdams for helping spread the word about the Hobbs Eagles in the early years of the Tasker era. McAdams did the play-by-play of Hobbs games over Station KWEW (now KUUX) from the late 1940s until he retired from broadcasting a couple of years ago.

"Harry McAdams used to do



CHAMPIONSHIP! A familiar sight for Hobbs basketball followers as the 1977-78 Eagles celebrate the Holliday Tournament championship. Coach Tasker gives the "6th Man" a lot of credit for this title.

all our games when nobody came out," Tasker said. "He said he'd just keep doing those games on the radio until they came out. He used to tell me, 'We'll keep telling them about the Hobbs Eagles until we make them want to come out and see for themselves.'"

Jim Rawls, longtime photographer for the Hobbs News-Sun, has been around Hobbs since Tasker arrived on the scene.

"I guess about 1955 or 1956, they really began to draw the crowds," said Rawls, who photographed all HHS games until retiring recently. "I think people like Ray Clay, Bill Bridges and Kim Nash were big drawing cards. They were hellacious players and they gave people their money's worth."

Count Hobbs City Manager Joe Harvey among the devoted Sixth Man. He's been hooked on

Hobbs basketball -- and Hobbs sports in general -- since he got his first glimpse of it 23 years ago.

"The first game I saw in Hobbs was one of those Hobbs-Roswell overtime games in 1960," Harvey recalled. "I was a policeman working the game. It just flat turned me on.

"I haven't missed one since."

Well, he has missed one or two, but not often.

"I've had to miss a couple of those games they play on Tuesday nights in Abilene and I didn't make the last trip to Oklahoma with them," said Harvey. "I usually take some vacation time and go wherever they go. Sue and I don't miss any of the home games in any sport. We're fond of them all.

"I don't know what gets you started, other than the enthusiasm of sports in Hobbs. It's not just basketball, either. It's all sports in Hobbs. Like

anything else, it gets in your blood."

In fact, the athletic program at Hobbs High School may keep Harvey from leaving Hobbs any time soon.

"I have enough years with the city right now to where I could take early retirement and people ask me why I don't do it," Harvey said. "The thought of ever having to leave Hobbs and leave the Hobbs Eagles is really the number one reason for not wanting to leave Hobbs."

Rawls can tell you first-hand how that enthusiasm created by the Eagles and their Sixth Man can get to anyone.

"Back when I had some spring left in my legs, I had to contain myself sometimes while covering them," he said. "I just couldn't keep from it. They get you caught up."

There may be some fans in Hobbs who take the atmosphere in Tasker Arena on game nights for granted. It takes a newcomer or somebody who has been involved in it before to notice just what the Sixth Man does for the Eagles.

Take the case of former Hobbs standout Gerald Coppedge, now an assistant coach at Abilene High.

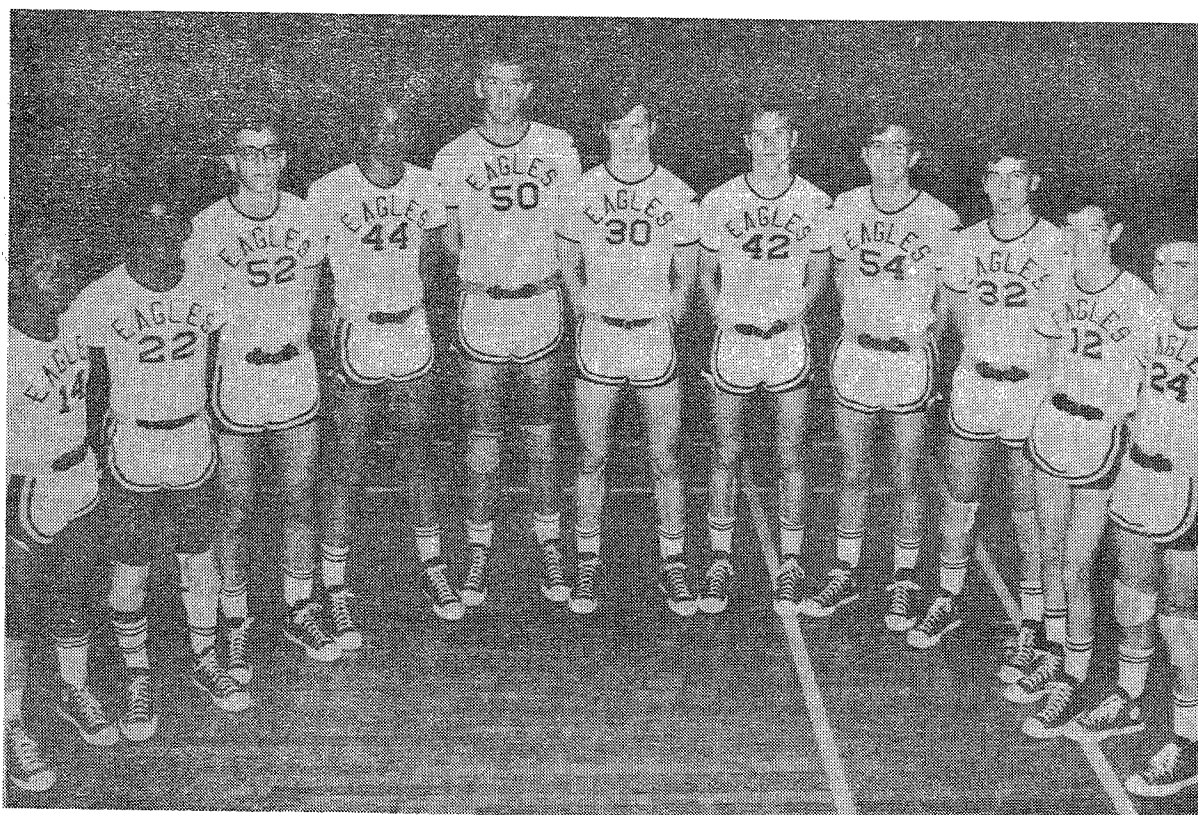
Coppedge remembers a 1981 game at Tasker Arena in which Abilene was giving Hobbs a good run for its money in the first half.

"They had gotten a jump on us, but we started to make a run at them in the second quarter," Coppedge said. "Then the Sixth Man started getting fired up and the Hobbs players started responding. It just kept building up and Hobbs kept playing better and better, but we were still in the game.

"Then, when I looked up in the stands and saw my mother leading the cheers, I knew we didn't stand a chance."

Hobbs won the game 101-84 and the Hobbs Eagles and their Sixth Man lived happily ever after . . . or until the next game, which ever comes first.

1969 • RECORD SHATTERING EAGLES - CHAMPS • 1970



1969-70 Eagles (L-R) James Dickerson, Charles Hutchings, Tommy Tidings, Larry Robinson, Larry Williams, Randall Pugh, Easy Pugh, Dicky Speegle, Mike Clampitt, Duane Henry, and Tim Tasker. Not pictured are Robert Brooks and James Ward.

EAGLE GYM DEDICATED

RALPH TASKER ARENA

How do you break the records established by the 1970 edition of the Hobbs Eagles?

Ralph Tasker's Eagles won the Class AAAA state championship in relatively easy fashion this year, but six other Hobbs teams have managed to bring a big school tournament trophy home. However, this year's Eagles did a lot of things no other team wearing the Black and Gold has ever even thought about doing.

For example:

The Eagles scored 170 points against Carlsbad in the finals of the District 4AAAA Tournament. They also scored 143 points against Lubbock Dunbar and 139 against Espanola. Those three scores all bettered the previous state scoring record of 137 points - owned by Hobbs, too.

Also, Hobbs set a new record by scoring 51 points in a single quarter against Carlsbad.

Now do you get the picture?

Besides rewriting the record book for scoring, the Eagles also scored 100 points in 20 of their 27 games this season and out-scored their opponents on the average of 115.5 to 75.6

On the boards, the Eagles were again superior. They claimed 1,371 caroms in those 27 games, an average of 50.8 per outing.

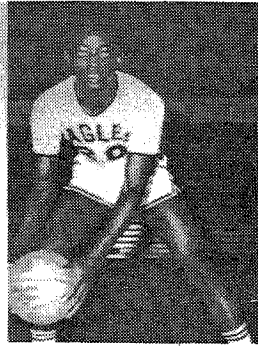


NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	TP
Charles Hutchings	100-200	.500	44-62	.710	244
Dicky Speegle	33-49	.673	19-36	.528	85
Robert Brooks	182-327	.555	92-112	.821	456
Mike Clampitt	18-31	.581	15-24	.625	51
James Dickerson	46-141	.326	26-47	.553	118
Duane Henry	70-134	.527	53-65	.815	193
Randall Pugh	112-175	.640	76-102	.745	300
Easy Pugh	89-144	.582	58-80	.725	236
Larry Robinson	324-490	.665	86-120	.717	734
Tim Tasker	23-74	.311	17-20	.850	63
Tommy Tidings	18-46	.391	10-24	.417	46
Larry Williams	179-274	.659	70-114	.614	428
James Ward	66-119	.555	34-55	.618	166
TOTALS	1260-2204	.572	600-861	.697	3120

1970

EAGLES BARELY MISS TITLE #4

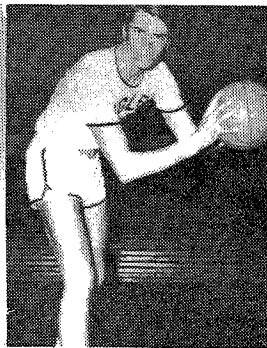
1971



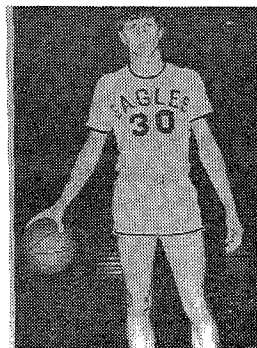
Charles Hutchings



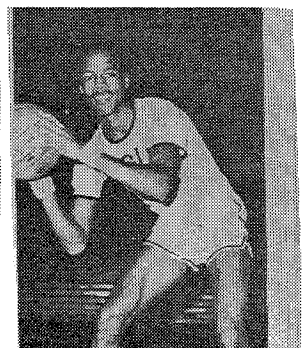
Frank Kemp



Ray Laughlin



Scott Mitchell



Donnie Jackson



Easy Pugh



Jimmy Savage



Steve Hightower



Dickey Speegle



Ronnie Pryer



Richard Robinson

Another rebuilding year at Hobbs strikes almost as much fear in the hearts of opposing coaches as Coach Tasker's most optimistic comment "We're almost back to normal."

Coming off of 3 straight state championship years poses the question of "Where does it stop?" and where this team didn't bring home all of the marbles, they did get more than their share as only a 2-point loss to Albuquerque High before 12,000 fans separated the team from Number 4 in a row.

The 105.7 points per game is 2nd all-time for an Eagle team behind only the 114.6 of the 1970 team. It is also #3 in the nation. The Eagles also hauled down 1259 rebounds for an average of 44 - per game despite not having a player over 6'4".

These Eagles go into the race among the all-time best to wear the black and gold.



James Ward



Dale Cunningham, Mgr.

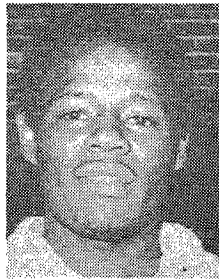
NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	TP
Ronnie Pryer	10-34	.294	5-14	.357	34
Frank Kemp	31-69	.449	27-50	.540	89
James Ward	202-404	.500	95-133	.714	499
Charles Hutchings	202-425	.475	80-120	.667	484
Donnie Jackson	153-285	.537	43-62	.693	349
Steve Hightower	5-21	.238	7-17	.412	17
Scott Mitchell	23-47	.489	23-42	.548	69
Ray Laughlin	39-88	.443	30-40	.750	103
Dicky Speegle	77-138	.558	62-112	.554	216
Jimmy Savage	149-270	.552	62-87 q	.713	360
Easy Pugh	172-301	.571	121-171	.708	465
Richard Robinson	95-202	.470	71-108	.657	261
TOTALS	1158-2284	.507	626-956	.658	2942

1971 • 20TH TRIP TO STATE TOURNAMENT • 1972

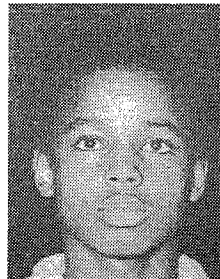
1971-72 Eagles



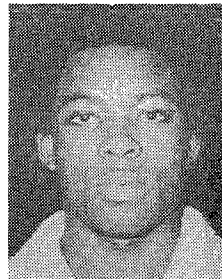
Guy Baber



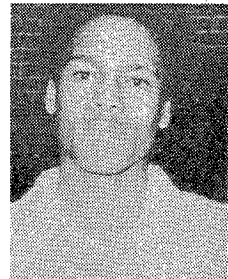
Robert Franklin



Junior Hutchings



Greg Hutchings



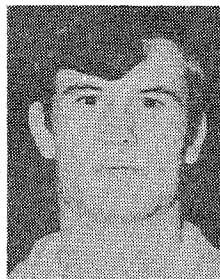
Donnie Jackson



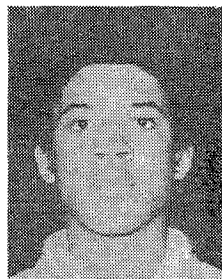
Pat Jeffers



Scott Mitchell



Ronnie Pryer



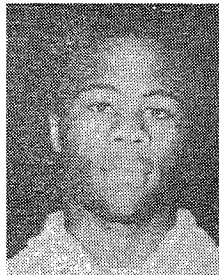
Richard Robinson



Eugene Smith



Pat Wood



Donnie Woods



The Eagles led by All-State Tournament selections: Donnie Jackson, Eugene Smith, and Richard Robinson made Hobbs' 20th appearance at the state tournament while claiming 4th place.

The high scoring Warbirds soared along at a 98.2 point/game average -- while compiling a 20-7 record. The 2652 points is 4th, behind the 1970 Eagles (3095), 1971 (2959), and 1964 (2777).

The eight Eagles returning next year combined for 59.1 points/game average, with 4 seniors moving into the ranks of T-Men alums.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	TP
Guy Baber	115-232	.496	68-99	.687	298
Ronnie Pryer	46-94	.489	23-40	.575	115
Donnie Jackson	206-390	.528	96-119	.807	508
Pat Woods	28-79	.354	12-31	.387	68
David Stanfield	0-1	0	2-4	.500	2
Pat Wood	29-78	.372	8-16	.500	66
Greg Hutchings	88-192	.458	27-44	.614	203
Richard Robinson	229-476	.481	118-201	.587	576
Eugene Smith	160-303	.528	107-169	.633	427
Pat Jeffers	22-56	.393	19-29	.655	63
Junior Hutchings	30-74	.405	30-40	.750	90
Robert Franklin	63-132	.477	29-65	.446	155
TOTALS	1040-2157	.482	572-908	.630	2652

1972 • 11TH STRAIGHT YEAR TO PLACE IN STATE • 1973



1972-73 Eagles (Front Row L-R) Larry Singleton, Junior Hutchings, Mike McVay, Scott Mitchell, Greg Hutchings, and Kenny Walker. (Back Row) Manager Mike Stinson, Pat Wood, David Stanfield, Pat Jeffers, Richard Robinson, Eugene Smith, and Robert Franklin.

Led by high scoring All-American Richard Robinson's (774) points, the Eagles averaged 100.5 points/game and compiled a 22-5 record. The 5 losses were by a total of 19 points including a 114-106 loss to Houston Wheatley, which was called the game of the year in the Southwest by an Arizona prep magazine.

The Eagles climbed over the century mark 13 times, hit a game high of 137 against Lovington and exceeded 130 on three other occasions during the year. Nine Eagles scored over 100 points for the season.

The state title didn't make it back to Hobbs this year, but the Warbirds battled back to claim the #3 spot in their 12th consecutive state tournament appearance.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	TP
Mike McVay.....	21-35	.600	13-23	.565	55
Scott Mitchell.....	52-103	.505	23-37	.622	127
Pat Wood.....	88-170	.518	43-64	.672	219
David Stanfield.....	52-84	.619	23-36	.639	127
Greg Hutchings.....	95-231	.411	25-35	.714	215
Kenny Walker.....	24-65	.369	18-32	.563	66
Richard Robinson.....	338-634	.532	98-159	.620	774
Eugene Smith.....	202-327	.618	69-125	.552	473
Pat Jeffers.....	55-98	.561	26-50	.520	136
Junior Hutchings.....	52-117	.444	66-81	.815	170
Larry Singleton.....	23-49	.469	26-46	.565	72
Robert Franklin.....	108-191	.565	64-104	.615	280
TOTALS	1110-2104	.527	495-791	.625	2715

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1973-74 EAGLES (No. I.D.)

Ralph Tasker recorded his 550th victory this year as the Eagles recorded their record 13th straight visit to the New Mexico state basketball tournament.

In 25 years at Hobbs, Tasker has won 561 to 15 losses (.785%). In addition to his outstanding record at Hobbs, Coach Tasker recorded a 57-33 (.633) mark including a state championship for Lovington prior to taking over the reigns at Hobbs.

Seniors Taylor, Franklin, Hutchings, Singleton, Bissell, Bingham and Truesdell were the backbone of the 1974 Eagles as they accounted for 73% of the Eagles 2333 points in route to a first round loss in the state tournament. Their 89.7 average was very "Eagle" in nature as Tasker continued to show the basketball world how to succeed.



NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	TP
Junior Hutchings.....	107-260	.412	62-85	.729	276
Larry Singleton.....	68-155	.439	42-71	.592	178
Bruce Bussell.....	65-148	.439	27-37	.730	157
Robert Franklin.....	214-401	.534	73-126	.579	501
Jeff Bingham.....	10-28	.357	2-5	.400	22
Henry Taylor.....	189-342	.553	115-174	.661	493
Gary Truesdell.....	14-24	.583	11-15	.733	39
Royce Cooper.....	10-19	.526	9-17	.529	29
Garland Taylor.....	76-175	.434	67-94	.713	219
Jay Parks.....	9-21	.429	5-6	.833	23
Latrail Jones.....	25-70	.357	31-46	.674	81
Kevin Keeling.....	50-93	.538	12-24	.500	112
John Baber.....	56-122	.459	40-61	.656	152
Darryle Jones.....	13-41	.317	13-23	.565	39
Danny Cox.....	5-15	.333	2-6	.333	12
TOTALS	911-1914	.475	511-789	.645	2333

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Garland Taylor



Kevin Keeling



Jay Parks



Donnie Thompson



Latrail Jones



Royce Cooper



Donald Martin



Kent Williams



Darryl Jones



Danny Cox



Terry Davis, Trainer

The 1974-75 Eagles averaged 96.3 points a game and had an 18-game winning streak between a 1 point loss to Midland High in December. The season total slate was 23-4 including a disappointing loss to state champion Las Cruces in the state semi-finals.

The value of a team is not always really based on the one game confrontation even though that is the basis for titles and records. These Eagles were very good when compared to the stiffest competition of all - past Hobbs High School basketball records: 2599 points/game, 1123 rebounds, .526 field goal % and 643 free throw percent.

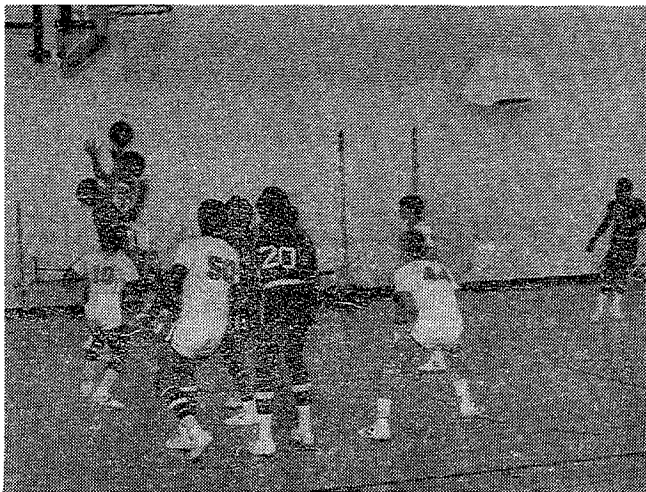
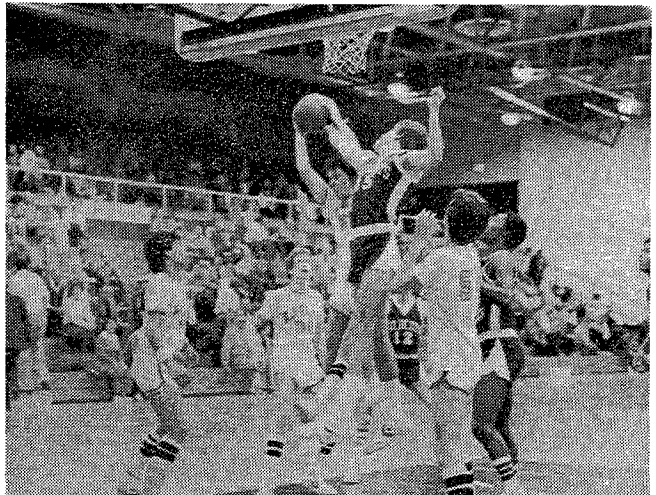
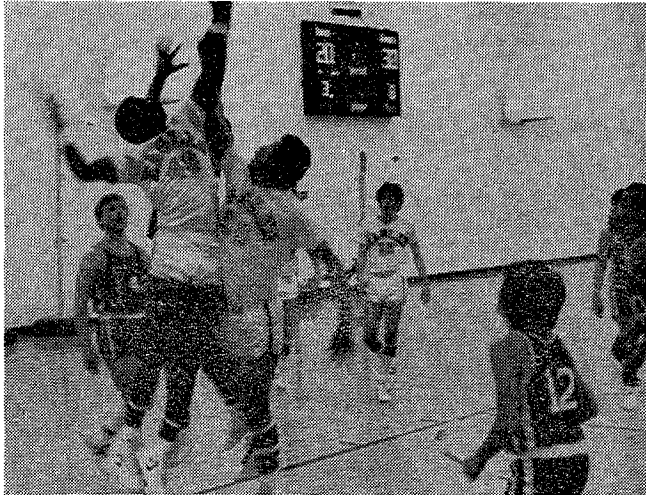
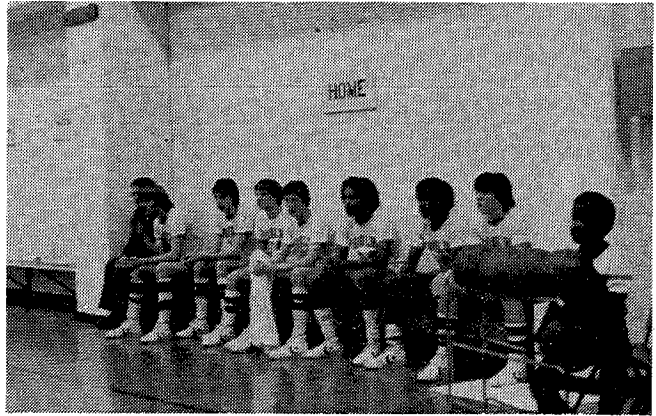
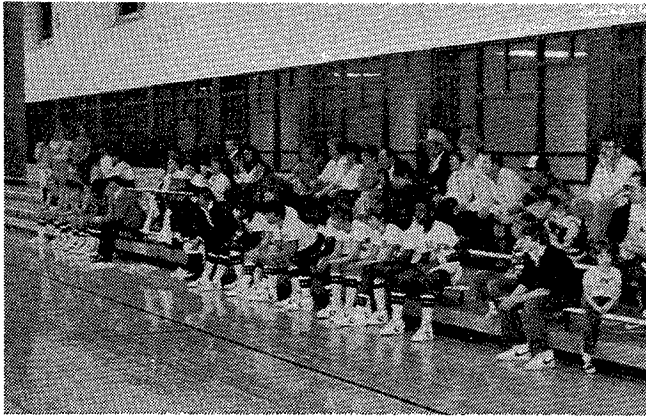
NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	TP
Latrail Jones	47-91	.516	30-50	.600	124
Don Martin	46-113	.407	16-30	.533	108
Royce Cooper	82-158	.519	51-77	.662	215
Garland Taylor	134-297	.451	42-72	.583	310
Jay Parks	23-59	.390	35-44	.795	81
Kent Williams	137-216	.634	57-88	.648	331
Darryl Jones	49-134	.366	16-31	.516	114
Bennie Hicks	67-129	.519	26-50	.520	160
Danny Cox	26-60	.433	17-25	.680	69
Don Thompson	198-331	.598	62-107	.579	458
Kevin Keeling	166-270	.615	89-118	.754	421
John Baber	82-151	.543	42-59	.712	202
TOTALS	1058-2010	.526	483-751	.643	2599

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1975-76 EAGLES (No. I.D.)

Long before the young Hobbs Eagles took their first official step of the 1975-76 basketball season, Ralph Tasker emphasized that this year's squad was going to have to have one certain ingredient to succeed. That important building block, he said, was team leadership from the three lettermen in camp.

The 22-5 record the District 4AAAA champion Eagles tacked up in what was supposedly a rebuilding year points out that those three lettermen -- Kent Williams, Danny Cox and Darryl Jones -- provided some excellent leadership, indeed.

When the Eagles put it all together, it spelled an amazing sweep of the four best teams in the West Texas area -- Abilene high, Odessa Permian, Midland Lee and Abilene Cooper. It also meant a District 4AAAA championship, a second-place finish in the state Class AAAAA

tournament and a coach-of-the-year honor for Ralph Tasker.

The fact that three of the five losses

on the record were administered by state championship clubs makes the record even more respectable.

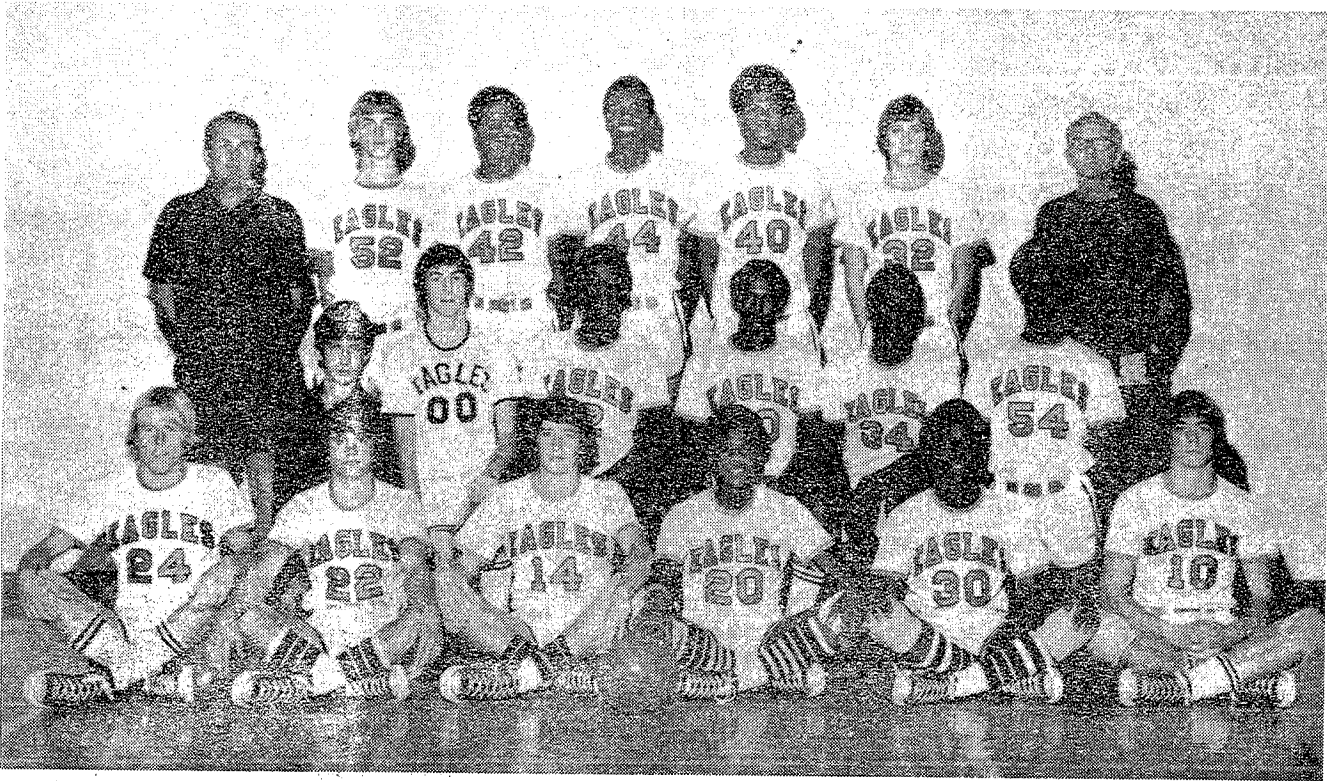
NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	TP
Danny Cox	89-117	.503	61-87	.701	239
Mark McKinley	1-2	.500	0-0	0	2
Kent Williams	251-409	.614	96-126	.762	598
Darryl Jones	106-237	.447	65-97	.670	277
Elvis Rice	48-121	.397	34-58	.586	140
Jack Burchfield	9-23	.391	1-5	.200	19
Randal Troop	69-139	.496	48-67	.716	186
Donnell Smith	10-32	.313	25-29	.862	45
Rod Williams	10-29	.345	12-16	.750	32
Craig Willman	6-20	.300	7-12	.583	19
Vic Singleton	46-101	.455	36-57	.632	128
David Hughes	0-4	0	1-3	.333	1
Steve Smith	97-210	.462	32-57	.561	226
Jeff Taylor	171-320	.534	54-91	.593	396
TOTALS	913-1824	.501	472-705	.670	2298



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316 WEST BENDER • HOBBS, NEW MEXICO

1976 • 16TH STRAIGHT TRIP TO STATE TOURNEY • 1977



1976-77 Eagles

A team that spent most of the season as the No. 1 pick in New Mexico didn't do so badly as they rolled to a 23-5 record, won 4AAAA District Championship and captured 3rd in the state tournament.

Junior Jeff Taylor was named to several All-American lists and another junior, Steve Smith was strong in scoring as well as on the boards.

Coach Tasker said after the season that "Things should soon be back to normal" which is about as close as he will come to announcing he has a future state championship contender in the wings.

The team may not have been the highest scoring Eagle team—#10 to date at 91.5 points per game, but that average would be tops for most schools in the nation.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	TP
Donnell Smith.....	93-183	.508	76-112	.650	262
Bryant Marshall.....	35-64	.547	29-46	.630	99
Terry Pittman.....	0-1	0	1-3	.333	1
Tony Whitsell.....	0-2	0	0-1	0	0
Rod Williams.....	133-254	.524	106-157	.675	372
Wayburn Dean.....	64-131	.489	41-65	.631	169
Robert Evans.....	38-95	.400	31-44	.705	107
Willie Lavow.....	38-91	.418	19-36	.528	95
Craig Willman.....	73-127	.575	18-35	.514	164
Vic Singleton.....	81-157	.516	44-68	.647	206
Jay Swinney.....	9-13	.692	7-14	.500	25
Tony Knott.....	7-12	.583	9-16	.563	23
Ronnie Smithers.....	15-38	.395	9-21	.429	39
Steve Smith.....	179-318	.563	65-96	.677	423
Jeff Taylor.....	236-400	.590	84-120	.700	556
Larry McKinley.....	6-13	.462	9-10	.900	21
TOTALS	1007-1899	.530	548-849	.645	2562





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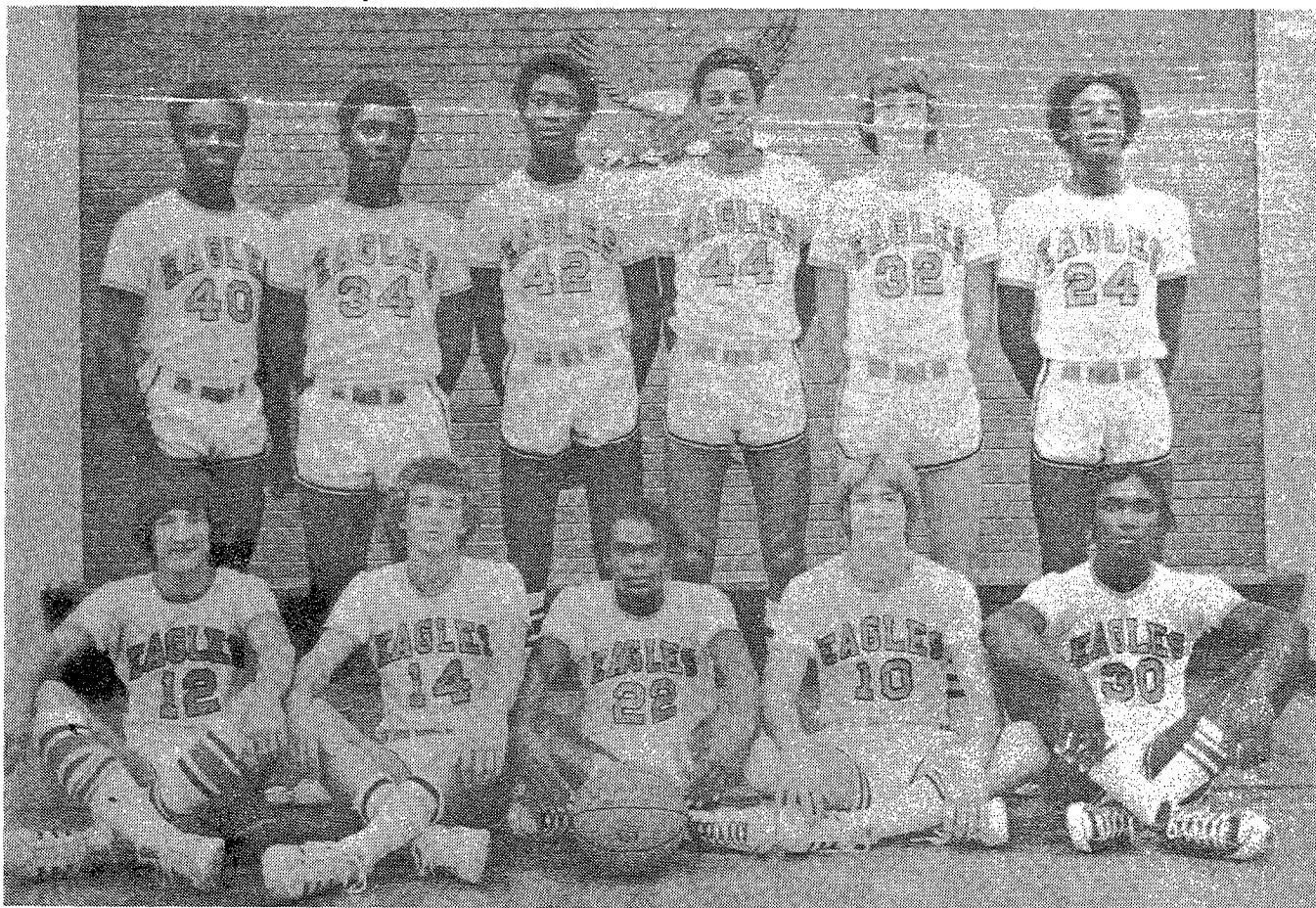
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1977-78 EAGLES: Top (L-R) Dino Cox, Steve Smith, Jeff Hannah, Jeff Taylor, Ronnie Simmers, Vic Singleton. Front Row (L-R) Mike Barton, Jay Swinney, Wallace Williams, Graig Willman, Mike Smith.

Ranked as #10 High School Team in the Nation.

Led by three year lettermen Jeff Taylor (All-American), Steve Smith, Vic Singleton and Craig Willman, the Eagles were 26-3 for the season. The running Eagles were flying high as they set rebounding marks with a game high of 84 vs Roswell, 2 team high of 117 vs Albuquerque Valley and season (1520). The Eagles once again traveled to the state tournament for their 26th time (22nd under Tasker and 17th in a row), but were disappointed in the opening round.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	TP
Craig Willman	83-157	.529	22-36	.611	188
Jay Swinney	58-120	.483	48-62	.774	164
Vic Singleton	169-330	.512	123-177	.695	461
Ronnie Simmers	32-72	.444	19-40	.475	83
Steve Smith	239-463	.516	61-83	.735	539
Dino Cox	73-178	.410	42-81	.519	188
Jeff Taylor	178-296	.601	50-73	.685	406
Larry McKinley	5-15	.333	8-14	.571	18
Mike Barton	2-13	.154	0-0	0	4
Jeff Hannah	49-77	.636	16-26	.615	114
Jay Willman	17-48	.354	11-23	.478	45
Mike Smith	97-189	.513	21-41	.512	215
Wallace Williams	188-361	.521	80-112	.714	456
Johnny Taylor	10-29	.345	10-17	.588	30
James Dabney	31-62	.500	13-18	.722	75
TOTALS	1231-2410	.511	524-803	.653	2986

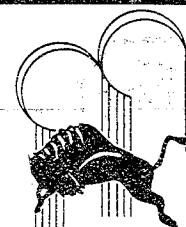
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1978-79 Eagles (First Row L-R) Tony Mackey, Deryl Haynes, Zac Sharp, David Bridgforth, Mac Wright; (Second Row) Wallace Williams, Mike Smith, Steve Welch, James Dabney, Jay Willman; (Third Row) Coach James Richards, Johnny Taylor, Larron Fields, Jeff Hannah, Vince Taylor, Coach Ralph Tasker.

Ralph Tasker's youngest team ever went out and compiled an eye catching 23-5 record, became the only team to defeat state champion Clovis and won District 4AAAA championship.

The Eagles were tabbed as a rebuilding team and Tip's 30th squad only had two senior non-starters as the sophs and juniors averaged 93.7 points/game on their road to the state tournament where the Eagles were tripped up in the opening round.

On a painful note — 59-year-old Tasker reinjured a hip while jogging in January and underwent surgery after the season.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	TP
Mac Wright	19-39	.487	5-6	.833	43
David Bridgforth	32-65	.492	16-23	.696	80
Mike Smith	185-335	.552	67-107	.626	437
Wallace Williams	193-403	.479	90-115	.783	476
Jay Willman	79-156	.506	56-84	.667	214
Deryl Haynes	21-49	.429	6-13	.462	48
Johnny Taylor	96-175	.549	37-68	.544	229
James Dabney	122-265	.460	44-66	.667	288
Steve Welch	22-50	.440	11-23	.478	55
Larron Fields	28-49	.571	14-24	.583	60
Zac Sharp	15-39	.385	6-14	.429	36
Vince Taylor	114-222	.514	56-106	.528	284
Tony Mackey	13-34	.382	6-8	.750	32
Jeff Hannah	132-216	.611	67-102	.657	331
TOTALS	1071-2097	.511	481-759	.634	2623



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1979 • TASKER RECEIVES NATIONAL HONORS • 1980



1979-80 Eagles (Row 1 L-R) Manager Kelvin French, Ronald Ross, Zac Sharp, Freddie Salgado, Wallace Williams. (Row 2) Manager Tony Bolden, Johnny Taylor, James Dabney, Mike Smith, David Bridgforth, Jay Willman, Coach Richards. (Row 3) Trainer Allan Williams, Coach Van Hecke, Steve Welch, Mike Newell, Vince Taylor, Tony Benford, Larron Fields, Coach Tasker.

The 1979-80 Hobbs Eagles accomplished plenty. Besides winning the school's eighth state basketball championship and hitting points at a 104.4 clip -- the third best scoring average in HHS history -- the Eagles also scored 3,028 points -- the second-best one-season offensive production ever by a Hobbs team -- grabbed 1490 rebounds -- the second best figure in that department ever -- and, by averaging 51.7 caroms per outing, also went into the record books as the second-best rebounding Hobbs team in history.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	TP
Ronald Ross	119-225	.529	41-53	.774	279
Zac Sharp	34-79	.430	13-19	.684	81
Freddie Salgado	17-44	.386	25-42	.595	59
Mike Smith	198-327	.606	42-60	.700	438
Wallace Williams	214-393	.545	59-78	.756	487
Jay Willman	128-244	.525	51-88	.580	307
Steve Welch	79-137	.577	39-59	.661	197
David Bridgforth	39-87	.720	18-25	.720	96
Johnny Taylor	91-192	.474	43-81	.531	225
James Dabney	152-278	.547	28-41	.683	332
Larron Fields	11-24	.458	5-8	.625	27
Vince Taylor	128-232	.552	45-67	.672	301
Tony Benford	68-113	.602	38-66	.576	174
Mike Newell	8-20	.400	9-12	.750	25
TOTALS	1286-2395	.537	456-699	.652	3028

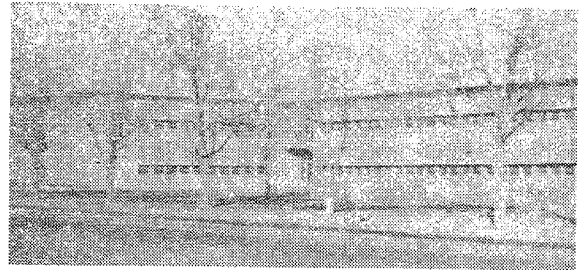
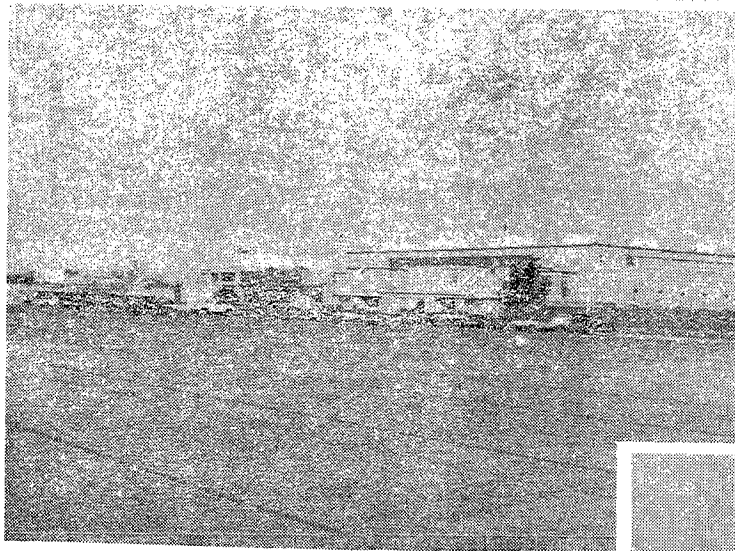
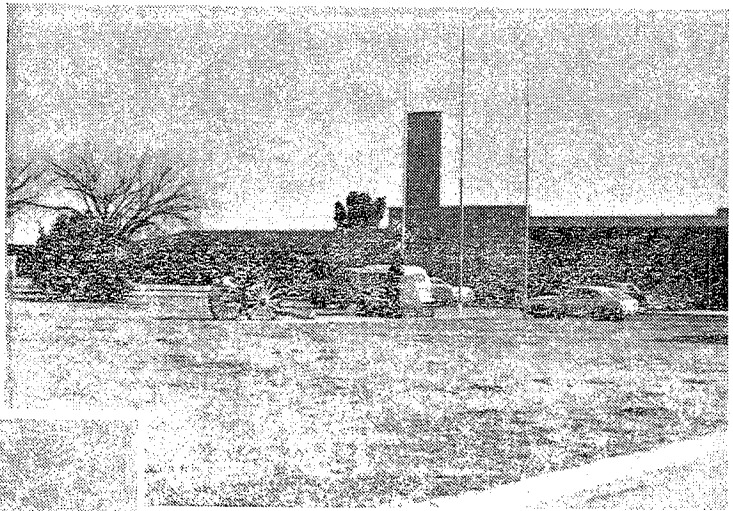
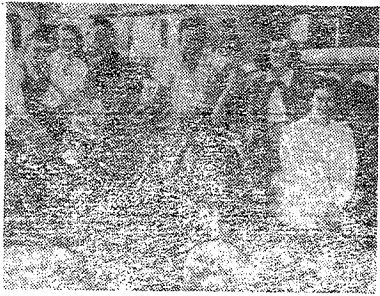
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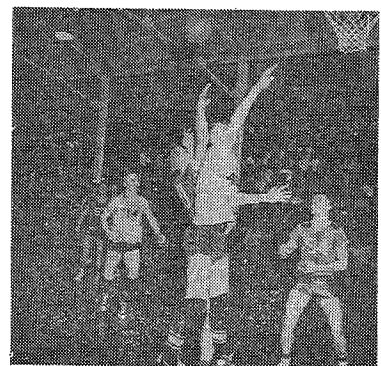
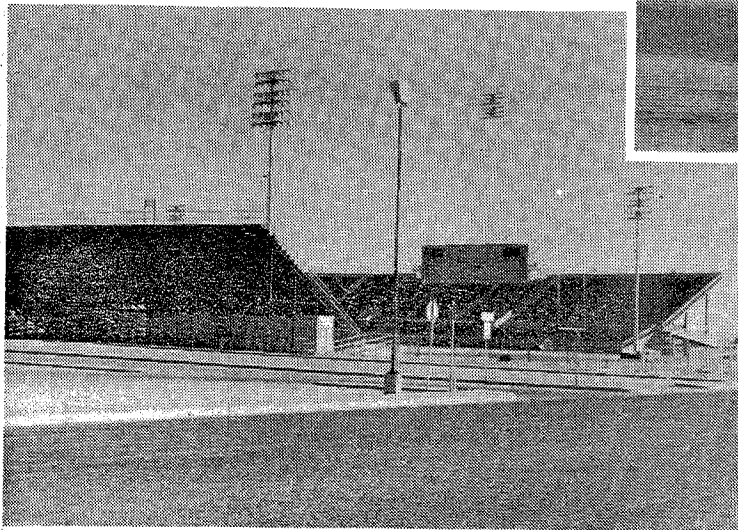
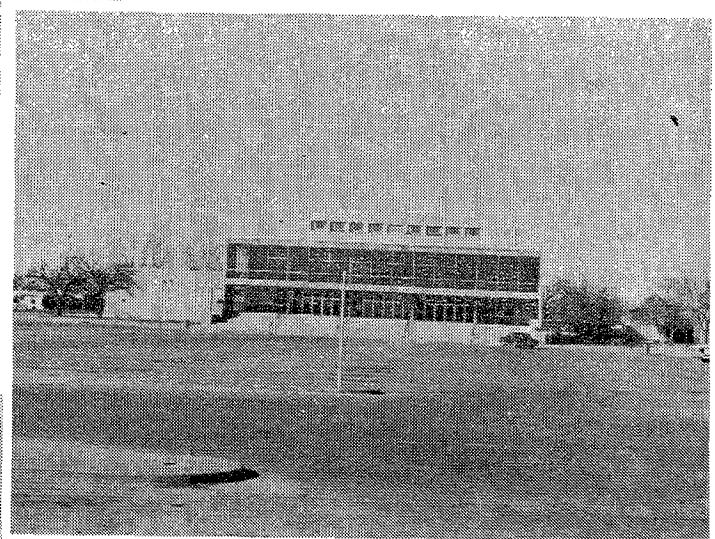
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HOBBS EAGLES: Honored Players



HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICANS

Tony Benford, 1982
 Vince Taylor, 1981
 Richard Robinson, 1973
 Larry Robinson, 1970
 Jeff Stoltz, 1967
 Hardy Ray Murphy, 1966
 Joe Ussery, 1964
 Bill Bridges, 1957
 Elmer Morganthaler, 1942

FIRST-TEAM ALL-STATE

1982	..... Tony Benford, 6-5 sr.	1966	..... Roy Lee Ford, 6-0, sr.
1981	..... Vince Taylor, 6-5 sr.		..... Hardy Ray Murphy, 6-0 sr.
	..... Tony Benford, 6-4 jr.	1965	..... Marvin Schmitt, 5-11 sr.
1980	..... Mike Smith, 6-1 sr.	1964	..... Joe Ussery, 6-5 sr.
	..... Wallace Williams, 5-9 sr.		..... Gary Overbeck, 6-6 sr.
1978	..... Jeff Taylor, 6-4 sr.	1963	..... Joe Ussery, 6-5 jr.
	..... Steve Smith, 6-0 sr.		..... Clifford Powell, 6-0 sr.
1977	..... Jeff Taylor, 6-3 jr.	1962	..... Terry Williams, 5-10 sr.
1976	..... Kent Williams, 6-5 sr.	1960	..... Hollice Clay, 5-11 sr.
	..... Jeff Taylor, 6-2 soph.	1958	..... Richard Hall, 6-1 sr.
1975	..... Garland Taylor, 5-11 sr.	1957	..... Bill Bridges, 6-4 sr.
	..... Donnie Thompson, 6-3 sr.		..... Ray Clay, 5-8 sr.
1974	..... Robert Franklin, 5-11 sr.	1956	..... Kim Nash, 6-0 sr.
1973	..... Richard Robinson, 6-3 sr.		..... Floyd Donham, 5-10 sr.
	..... Eugene Smith, 6-4 sr.	1955	..... Kim Nash, 6-0 jr.
1972	..... Donnie Jackson, 5-11 sr.	1954	..... Ertis Davis, 6-1 sr.
1971	..... Charlie Hutchings, 5-10 sr.	1951	..... Charles Nolan, 6-5 sr.
	..... Easy Pugh, 6-3 sr.	1946	..... Monte Roy, 5-9 sr.
1970	..... Larry Robinson, 6-5 sr.	1943	..... Buddy Hendrickson, 6-2 sr.
	..... Larry Williams, 6-8 sr.	1942	..... Elmer Morganthaler, 6-9 sr.
1969	..... Harry Ward, 6-4 sr.	1940	..... Clayton Lester, 6-4 sr.
	..... James Singleton, 5-6 sr.	1939	..... Guy "Red" Crow, 6-7 sr.
1968	..... Harry Ward, 6-2 jr.	1938	..... Carl McAdoo, 6-4 sr.
	..... John Fenner, 6-3 sr.	1934	..... Hubert Deaton, sr.
1967	..... Max Proctor, 5-6 sr.		
	..... Wiggie Defreeze, 6-3 sr.		

(Cont. from Pg. 29)

NATIONAL SCORING RECORD

(Best Average, Season)

114.6	..... Hobbs, N.M., 1970
111.8	.. Los Angeles Jefferson, 1966
111.6	..... Hobbs, N.M., 1981
108.7	..... Houston Wheatley, 1973
108.3	..... Hobbs, N.M., 1982
106.1	..... Houston Wheatley, 1972
105.7	..... Hobbs, N.M., 1971
104.4	..... Hobbs, N.M., 1980
104.3	..... Camden, N.J., 1981
104.0	Bridgeport, Conn., Central, 1971
103.1	..... Hobbs, N.M., 1978
101.0	..... Wampum, Pa., 1955
100.5	..... Hobbs, N.M., 1973

(100-Point Games, Season)

31	..... Houston Wheatley, 1973
20	..... Hobbs, N.M., 1970
18	..... Hobbs, N.M., 1981
17 Hobbs, N.M., 1980
17 Hobbs, N.M., 1982

(Consecutive 100-Point Games)

14 Hobbs, N.M., 1969-70
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CONSECUTIVE LOSSES

6 1947
5 1936
5 1946-47
5 1948
5 1951-52
4 1947
4 1948
4 1954

CONSECUTIVE HOME-COURT WINS

49	..... 1965-68
42	..... 1979-82
38	..... 1955-57
35	..... 1969-71
32	..... 1963-64

MOST WINS IN SEASON

30	..... 1956 (30-3)
28	..... 1966 (28-0)
28	..... 1939 (28-5)
27	..... 1951 (27-6)
27	..... 1957 (27-2)
27	..... 1963 (27-1)
27	..... 1968 (27-1)
26	..... 1964 (26-2)
26	..... 1970 (26-1)
26	..... 1978 (26-3)
26	..... 1981 (26-0)

POINTS (SEASON)

3,095	..... 1970 (26-1)
3,028	..... 1980 (27-2)
2,902	..... 1981 (26-0)
2,989	..... 1978 (26-2)
2,959	..... 1972 (25-3)
2,816	..... 1982 (23-3)
2,777	..... 1964 (26-2)
2,715	..... 1973 (22-5)
2,630	..... 1972 (20-7)
2,623	..... 1979 (23-5)

ASSISTS (SEASON)

1,042	..... 1978 (26-2)
899	..... 1981 (26-0)
862	..... 1980 (27-2)
843	..... 1982 (23-3)
781	..... 1973 (22-5)
781	..... 1977 (23-5)
752	..... 1979 (23-5)

REBOUNDS (SEASON)

1,520	..... 1978 (26-3)
1,490	..... 1980 (27-2)
1,460	..... 1982 (23-3)
1,444	..... 1957 (27-2)
1,431	..... 1958 (20-11)
1,371	..... 1970 (26-1)
1,344	..... 1977 (23-5)
1,332	..... 1981 (26-0)

FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE

.571	..... 1970 (26-1)
.537	..... 1980 (27-2)
.530	..... 1977 (23-5)
.527	..... 1973 (22-5)
.526	..... 1975 (23-4)
.511	..... 1978 (26-3)
.511	..... 1979 (23-5)
.507	..... 1971 (25-3)
.507	..... 1981 (26-0)

FREE THROW PERCENTAGE

.696	..... 1970 (26-1)
.684	..... 1981 (26-0)
.658	..... 1971 (25-3)
.653	..... 1978 (26-3)
.652	..... 1980 (27-2)
.645	..... 1974 (21.5)
.645	..... 1977 (23-5)

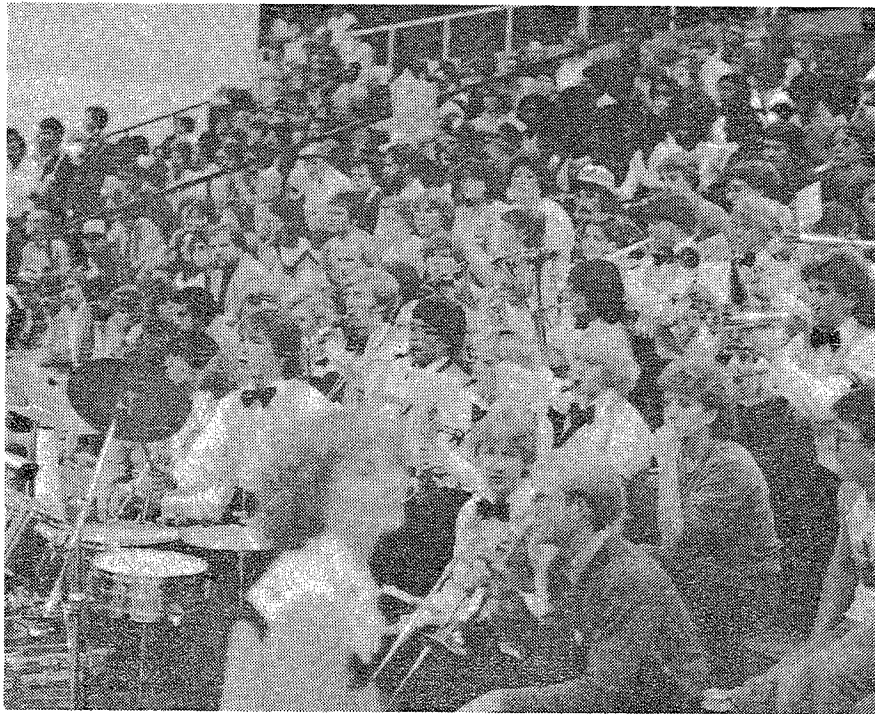
REBOUNDING AVERAGE

56.1	..... 1982 (23-3)
52.4	..... 1978 (26-3)
51.7	..... 1980 (27-2)
51.2	..... 1981 (26-0)
50.8	..... 1970 (26-1)
49.8	..... 1957 (27-2)
48.0	..... 1977 (23-5)
46.2	..... 1958 (20-11)

TASKERVITCH NINE



Left to right: Eldon Marr, Jerry Ragsdell, Robert Murphy, Harold Brown, Jack Payton, James Repperd, Carl Foulds, Lee Cheney, Max Webb.



One of the original known Taskervitch bands shown above in 1955 is the predecessor to today's important 6th man ingredient.

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BORGER, TEXAS

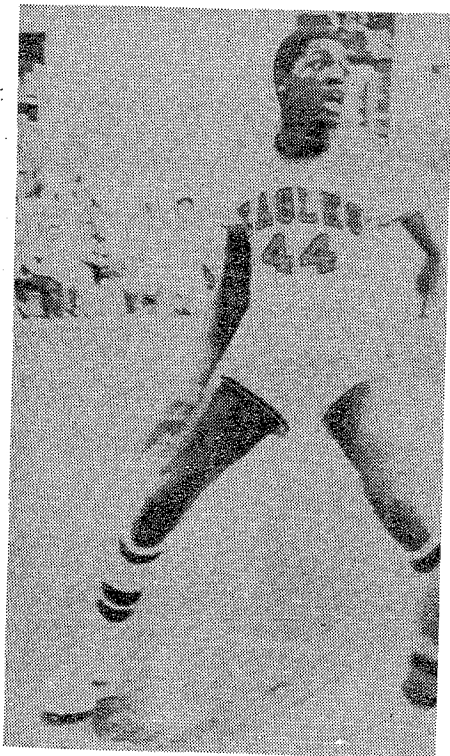
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1980 • 9TH TITLE • 111.6 POINTS PER GAME • 1981



1980-81 Eagles (l-r) Coach Richards, Shawn Wilson, Timmy Smith, Tony Benford, Vince Taylor, Hubert Haynes, Kenny Smith, Coach Tasker
Front row (l-r) David Glover, Darryl Davis, Zac Sharp, Crit Caton, Ruben Berry, Wayne Brewer, Coach Van Hecke, Mgr. Kevin French



Led by All-American Vince Taylor, the Hobbs Eagles waltzed through their 2nd undefeated season to claim state championship number eight.

By averaging 111.6 points per game, the T-Men captured the number 3 spot in all time national scoring honors.

This team undoubtedly will receive its share of votes as the most outstanding group to wear the gold and black and burned up enough courts around the southwest to keep Hobbs basketball prominent in conversations for a few more years.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	F	TP
Wayne Brewer	85-163	.521	24-40	.600	43	194
Crit Caton	39-78	.500	12-20	.600	41	90
Timmy Smith	124-232	.534	69-103	.670	82	317
Kenny Smith	139-251	.554	69-97	.711	81	344
Darryl Davis	102-227	.449	57-84	.679	74	260
Zac Sharp	91-205	.444	44-58	.758	64	226
David Glover	24-48	.500	23-41	.560	32	71
Tony Alexander	2-7	.285	0-0	0	7	4
Tony Benford	185-368	.690	90-127	.709	71	458
Hubert Haynes	31-68	.455	15-26	.576	32	77
Shawn Wilson	76-142	.535	29-41	.707	64	181
Vince Taylor	266-509	.523	101-138	.732	65	633
Ruben Barry	15-38	.394	13-24	.541	9	42
TOTALS	1179-2323	.508	544-795	.684	672	2902



1981-82 EAGLES; Back Row (L-R) Coach James Richards, Clark White, Hubert Haynes, Tony Benford, Deric Gray, Eddie Newell, and Coach Ralph Tasker. Middle Row (L-R): Darren Akison, Tony Alexander, Timmy Smith, Dennis Taylor, David Granger, and trainer David Huerta. Front Row (L-R) Manager Kelvin French, Morris Taylor, David Glover and Wayne Brewer.

Tony Benford elbowed his way among the elite of Hobbs High School basketball. The 6'3" Benford was Hobbs' leading scorer this season with a state-leading 27.5-points-per-game average. He averaged 16.3 rebounds a game, also No. 1 in the state.

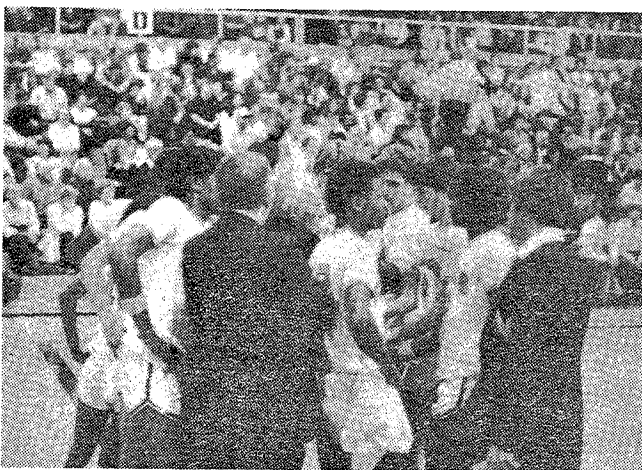
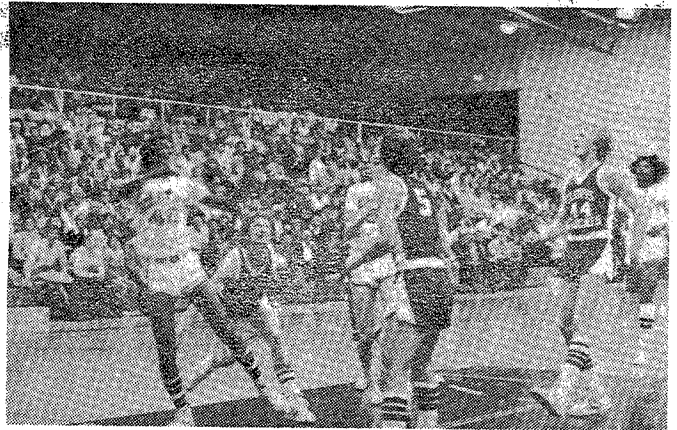
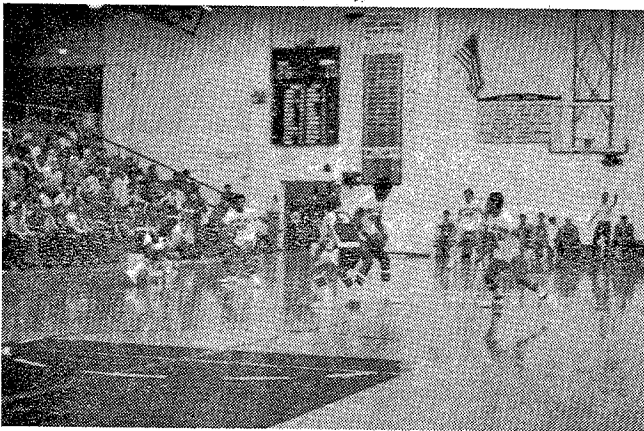
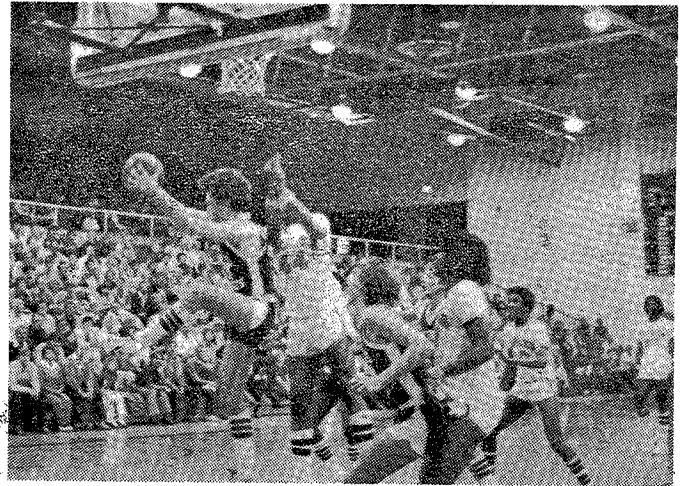
As a team, the 1981-82 Eagles didn't do badly. They finished with a 106.3 scoring average, the third-best season average ever at Hobbs High School. It was the seventh time the Eagles have averaged over 100 points per game during a season.

The 56.1 rebounds the Eagles averaged as a team did establish a new school record.

In the Eagles 30th appearance at the state tournament, they brought home 4th place.

NAME	FG-FGM	Pct.	FT-FTM	Pct.	F	TP
Wayne Brewer	199-399	.498	53-71	.746	61	451
Timmy Smith	188-348	.540	62-92	.673	91	438
Morris Taylor	83-180	.461	21-59	.355	55	187
David Granger	12-38	.315	6-13	.461	28	30
David Glover	58-133	.436	51-79	.645	68	165
Tony Alexander	65-139	.467	35-70	.500	62	167
Eddie Newell	49-104	.471	6-17	.352	44	105
Tony Benford	307-584	.525	101-130	.776	76	715
Darron Akison	5-12	.416	0-3	0	5	10
Dennis Taylor	56-134	.417	9-16	.562	47	121
Deric Gray	18-37	.486	3-7	.428	9	39
Clark White	56-142	.394	10-30	.333	32	122
Hubert Haynes	100-203	.492	53-78	.679	92	253
TOTALS	1202-2441	.492	412-681	.604	682	2816

Hobbs Daily News-Sun

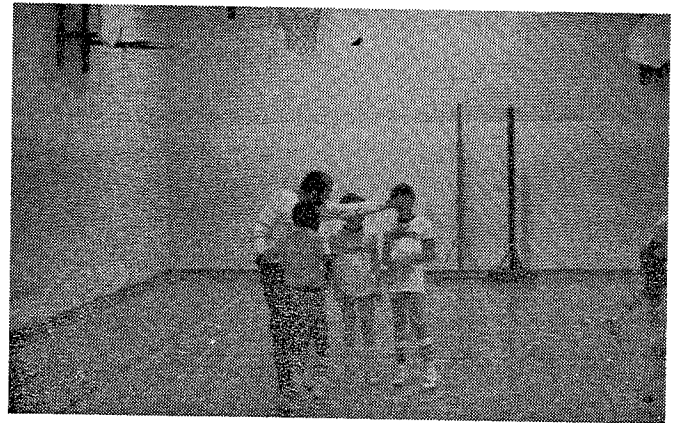
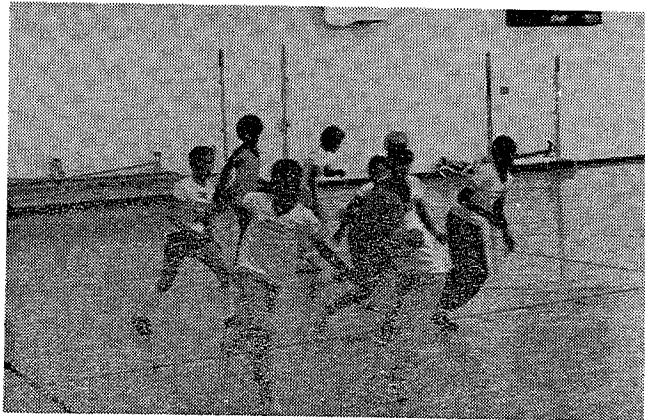
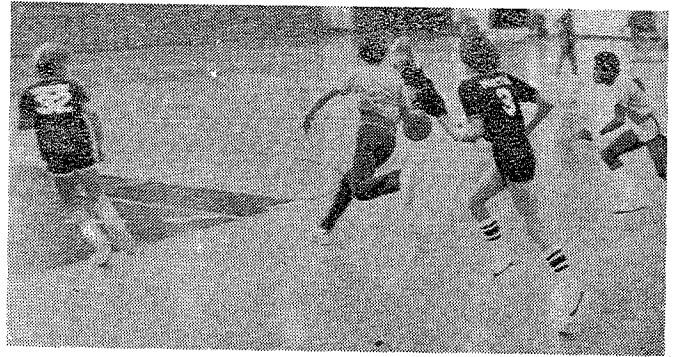
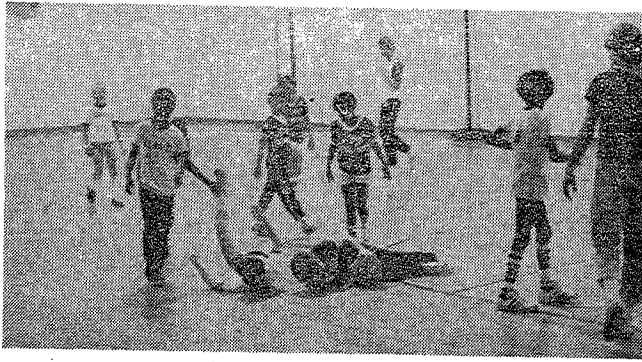


10	Chris French	.....sr.	5'4"
14	Kermit Brooks	.....sr.	5'9½"
20	Morris Taylor	.....sr.	5'11"
24.	Brad Bliss	.....jr.	5'11½"
30	Blake Welch	.....jr.	6'0"
32	Eddie Newell	.....jr.	6'2"
34	Chris Harris	.....soph.	5'8½"
40	Shelby Reeves	.....jr.	6'0½"
42	Melvin Thompson	.....jr.	5'10"

44	Dennis Taylor	.....jr.	6'1"
52	Clark White	.....jr.	6'4"
54	Chris Brown	.....jr.	6'2"

Head Coach: Ralph Tasker
J.V. Coach: James Richards
Athletic Director: Gene Wells
Colors: Black and Gold

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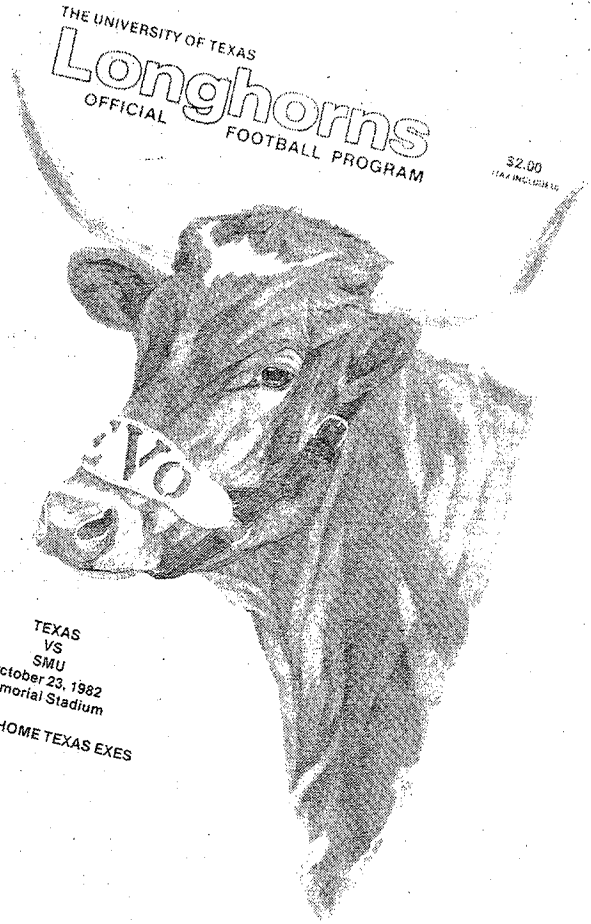
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